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MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022

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Vol. 53 • No. 151
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At Mann Ki Baat, Modi reminds people of the 'dreadful' Emergency
page 10

States should get direct taxation powers: Cong. data analytics chief
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Sri Lanka increases fuel prices amid visit of U.S. delegation
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Madhya Pradesh trumps Mumbai, claims maiden Ranji Trophy title
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Ten killed in two separate road accidents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI/MYSURU

Ten persons were killed in different accidents – one near Belagavi and another near Nagamangala in Mandya district – in the last 24 hours.

As many as seven workers died on the spot and 14 injured when a multi-utility vehicle overturned near Belagavi on Sunday.

All those travelling in the vehicle were workers from Akkatangerahala, Dasanatti and Mallapur (SA) villages of Gokak taluk.

The workers from these three villages were being taken to Belagavi in three vehicles for work on daily wages. In all, there were 21 people in the vehicle that overturned.

According to preliminary investigation, the drivers of the three vehicles were driving at full speed with a view to reaching the work place in time. The accident occurred when one of the drivers lost control, resulting in the vehicle hitting the sidewall of the Kalyal Minor Bridge in Belagavi taluk. The vehicle fell off the bridge and overturned killing seven on the spot.

On seeing the vehicle overturn, workers in the other vehicles rushed to the rescue of the injured and brought them to the road.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 4

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGES 4 & 5

Shinde moves SC; Uddhav camp says rebels will be disqualified

Govt. counsel says they can be removed for anti-party activities outside House

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The political turmoil in Maharashtra intensified on Sunday, with rebel Shiv Sena MLA and Minister Eknath Shinde moving the Supreme Court against the disqualification notice issued by the Deputy Speaker to him and 15 other legislators.

The party, led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, meanwhile, received another jolt as Maharashtra Technical and Higher Education Minister Uday Samant, a key Sena leader in the Konkan region, joined Mr. Shinde's rebel camp in Guwahati.

Mr. Shinde now has the support of nine Sena Ministers with Aaditya Thackeray being the only one in the Uddhav Thackeray camp left in the Assembly. The other two Thackeray loyalists Anil Parab and Subhash Desai are Legislative Council members.

The rebel faction challenged the appointment of Sena MLA from Mumbai Ajay Choudhari as the Legislature Party leader, and the rejection of their no-confidence motion against Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal.

On the other side, the loyalists of Mr. Thackeray, too, have geared up to take on the rebels with Arvind Sawant, MP, stating that the party had already initiated legal action to disqualify the 16 rebel MLAs by serving notices on them.

Support base: Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray with party cadre in Mumbai on Sunday. • PTI

Advocate Devadatt Kamat, counsel for the Sena-led government, said that proceedings had been initiated by the Shiv Sena against 16 MLAs under para 2(1) (A) of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution.

He said there were several examples where even if a member committed anti-party activities outside the House, then he or she was liable to be disqualified.

"There were several meetings called by the Shiv Sena, but none were responded to by the rebel MLAs. Their action of going to another State and writing letters against the MVA government makes them liable for prosecution for anti-party activities, and thus liable for disqualification," Mr. Kamat said.

Rejects rebels' claims

He said the claims by the rebel MLAs of retaining their posts on the grounds that they had two-thirds of the total of 55 Sena MLAs with them would only apply had they merged their group with another party.

"Since they have already committed an anti-party act and still there is no merger, they face disqualification," he said.

The Centre granted security to 15 of the rebel MLAs with the Home Ministry providing Y-plus security cover by stationing Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans outside the homes of the rebel MLAs. The move comes as strident protests against the MLAs in the Shinde faction continued across the State.

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, too, wrote to the Mumbai Commissioner of Police and the Maharashtra Director-General of Police asking them to provide additional security to the rebels.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

RELATED REPORT ▸ PAGE 10

SP loses its Azamgarh and Rampur bastions in bypolls

AAP candidate loses to Simranjit Singh Mann in Sangrur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday won the byelections to the Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh, wresting them from the Samajwadi Party, while in a setback, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab lost the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat, which was vacated by State Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in March, to the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar).

The BJP candidate from Azamgarh, Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua', a Bhojpuri actor, defeated Dharmendra Yadav of the SP by a margin of 8,679 votes, according to the Election Commission.

Mr. Dinesh had lost to SP president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The seat fell vacant after Mr. Akhilesh won in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election earlier this year.

In Rampur, BJP candidate Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi defeated Mohammed Asim Raja of the SP by a margin of 42,192 votes. The Rampur seat was vacated by SP leader Azam Khan, who also won in the Assembly election.

In Punjab, Simranjit Singh Mann, president of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), won the Sangrur byelection, defeating Gurmail Singh of the AAP by 5,822 votes. In Tripura, Chief Minister Manik Saha won the Town Bardowali seat, while Malina Debnath and Swapna Das of the BJP won the Jubarajnagar and Surma seats, respectively. Congress candidate Sudip Roy Barman won the Agartala seat , defeating his nearest rival Ashok Sinha of the BJP.

Soon after Mr. Barman's victory, the Congress Bhavan in Agartala was attacked. "We demand an apology from BJP president J.P. Nadda and an investigation by Home Minister Amit Shah into why these attacks occurred," said party general secretary K.C. Venugopal in a statement.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGES 7 & 11

Counting the seats | The BJP made further gains in U.P. in the Lok Sabha byelections, while Tripura CM Manik Saha ensured a win in the Assembly byelection

LOK SABHA BYELECTIONS

State	Seat	Winning party	Vote share%
Punjab	Sangrur	SAD (A)	35.6
Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh	BJP	34.4
	Rampur	BJP	52.0

ASSEMBLY BYELECTIONS

State	Seat	Winner	Vote %
Andhra Pradesh	Atmakur	YSRCP	74.5
Jharkhand	Mandar	Cong.	43.9
Delhi	Rajinder Nagar	AAP	55.8
Tripura	Agartala	Cong.	43.5
	Jubarajnagar	BJP	51.8
	Surma	BJP	42.3
	Town Bardowali	BJP	51.6

Winning side: Tripura CM Manik Saha reacts after the counting of votes in Agartala on Sunday. • PTI

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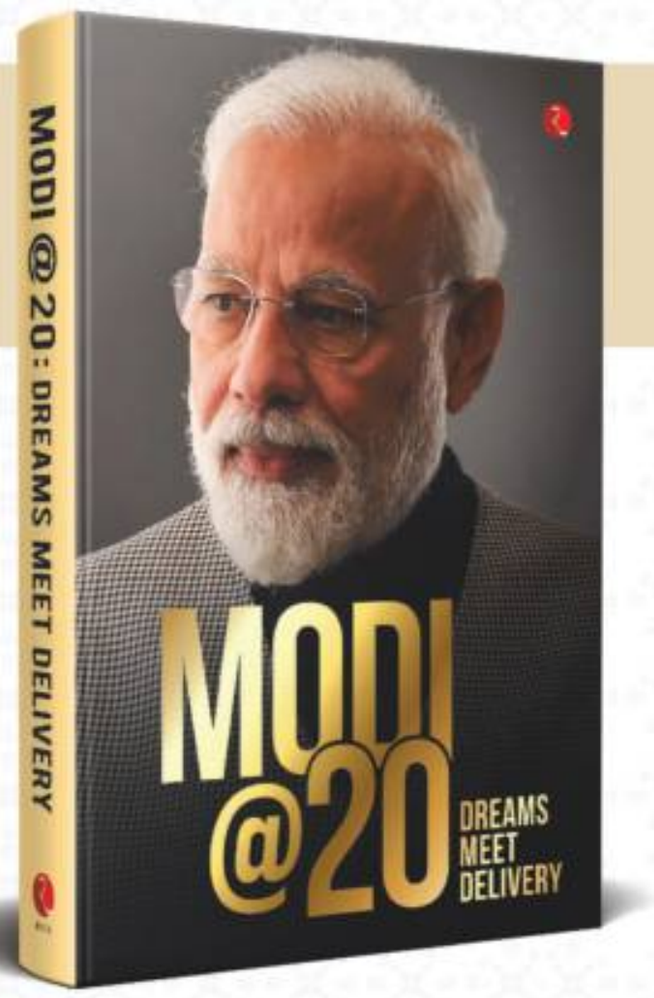

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Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan
Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education IT-BT, Science & Technology, Skill Development Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, GoK

Shri V. Somanna
Hon'ble Minister of Housing Infrastructure Development,
Government of Karnataka

Shri S.T. Somashekar
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Government of Karnataka

Shri B.A. Basavaraju
Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development
Government of Karnataka

Shri K. Gopalaiah
Hon'ble Minister of Excise
Government of Karnataka

Shri N. Nagaraju (M.T.B.)
Hon'ble Minister of Small Scale Industries and Municipal Administration
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Shri Muniratna
Hon'ble Minister of Horticulture & Planning, Program Monitoring Statistics Department, Government of Karnataka

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Assam floods

25 In lakhs, the number of people still facing difficulties in 27 flood-hit districts of Assam, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority. As many as 2.33 lakh have taken shelter in 637 relief camps of the northeastern State, which had been battling floods and landslides for the past two weeks. Four more persons died on Saturday in the floods in different parts of Assam, raising this year's toll in the State due to flood and landslides to 121. Since March 1, the State has recorded 1,891.90 mm of rainfall. PTI

Short-term role

56,960 The number of applications received by the Indian Air Force under the Agnipath recruitment scheme till Sunday; three days after the registration process started. Registration closes on July 5. Unveiling the Agnipath scheme, the government had said youth between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 years (revised to 23 later) would be inducted for a four-year tenure after which 25% of them will be inducted for regular service. PTI

India-Egypt wheat trade

1.8 In lakh tonnes, the amount of wheat Egypt has contracted to buy from India, according to Egyptian Supply Minister Aly Moselhy. Shipment will happen once the cargo "reaches the ports" in India, Mr. Moselhy added. Egypt has strategic reserves of wheat sufficient for 5.7 months. The country has procured 3.9 million tonnes of wheat in the harvest so far. The strategic reserves for sugar are sufficient for more than six months, 6.3 months for vegetable oils while rice reserves will be enough for 3.3 months. REUTERS

Need for coal

0.8 In million tonnes, the amount of coal that will be produced by two mines in Assam if they were cleared to operate. Coal India unit North Eastern Coalfields is in the process of seeking clearances for putting them into operation in the current financial year. This is in the wake of efforts being made to avoid the reoccurrence of power outages faced by the country at the beginning of the summer season. Mining operations at North Eastern Coalfields were halted due to environment-related issues in 2020. PTI

Stepping off the gas

40 In percent, the amount by which Russia cut gas supplies to Europe blaming delayed equipment repairs in the Nord Stream 1 pipeline. The move left Germany and other states racing to find alternative supplies to head off the risk of rationing when winter comes. Europe fears President Vladimir Putin will use a scheduled maintenance programme on the pipeline from July 11 to 21 to turn the screws, putting a brake on efforts to refill inventories in retaliation for far-reaching sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Indian laws on abortions

What are the conditions under which Indian women can safely terminate pregnancies?

THE GIST

- In order to reduce maternal mortality owing to unsafe abortions, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act was brought into force in 1971. This law is an exception to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) provisions of 312 and 313 and sets out the rules of how and when a medical abortion can be carried out.
- Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, abortion is permitted after medical opinion under stipulated circumstances. The 2021 Act increased the upper limit of the gestation period to which a woman can seek a medical abortion to 24 weeks from 20 weeks permitted in the 1971 Act. But this renewed upper limit can only be exercised in specific cases.
- Several women annually approach the apex court and High Courts, when medical boards reject their application to access MTP beyond the gestational upper limit, seeking permission to abort a pregnancy, mostly in cases where it is a result of sexual assault or when there is a foetal abnormality.

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: In a significant step backwards for women's rights in the U.S., the Supreme Court overturned the landmark *Roe v. Wade* judgement of 1973, which gave women in America the right to have an abortion before the foetus is viable outside the womb or before the 24-28 week mark. With the setting aside of the historic judgement on abortion in the U.S, here's a look at the laws that govern abortion in India.

How did abortion laws come about in India?

In the 1960s, in the wake of a high number of induced abortions taking place, the Union government ordered the constitution of the Shantilal Shah Committee to deliberate on the legalisation of abortion in the country. In order to reduce maternal mortality owing to unsafe abortions, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act was brought into force in 1971. This law is an exception to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) provisions of 312 and 313 and sets out the rules of how and when a medical abortion can be carried out.

Under Section 312 of the IPC, a person who "voluntarily causes a woman with child to miscarry" is liable for punishment, attracting a jail term of up to three years or fine or both, unless it was done in good faith where the purpose was to save the life of the pregnant woman. Section 313 of the IPC states that a person who causes the miscarriage without the consent of the pregnant woman, whether or not she is the in the advanced stages of her pregnancy, shall be punished with life imprisonment or a jail term that could extend to 10 years, as well as a fine.

How has the MTP Act evolved from 1971 to 2021?

The latest amendment to the MTP Act was made in 2021. Before that new rules were introduced in 2003 to allow the use of then newly discovered abortion medicine misoprostol, to medically terminate a pregnancy up to seven weeks into it. Broader amendments to the original Act were introduced in 2020 and the amended Act came into force in September 2021.

Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, abortion is permitted after medical opinion under stipulated circumstances. The 2021 Act increased the upper limit of the gestation period to which a woman can seek a medical abortion to 24 weeks from 20 weeks permitted in the 1971 Act. But this renewed upper limit can only be exercised in specific cases. Gestational age, calculated in weeks, is the medical term to describe how far along the pregnancy is and is measured from the first day of the woman's last menstruation or period.

Another major amendment was that MTP could not be accessed on the opinion of a single registered medical practitioner up to 20 weeks of the gestational age. From 20 weeks up to 24 weeks, the opinion of two registered medical practitioners is required. In the previous version of the Act, the opinion of one registered doctor was required to access a medical abortion up to 12 weeks of pregnancy, while two doctors were required to endorse the abortion up to 20 weeks.

What is the MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021?

Under the 2021 Act, medical termination of pregnancy is permitted if it is backed by medical opinion and is being sought for at least one of the following reasons – (1) If the continuation of pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant woman (2) If its continuation would result in grave injury to the woman's physical or mental health (3) In the case of a substantial risk that if the child was born, it would suffer from serious physical or mental abnormality.

The pregnancy can be terminated upto 24 weeks of gestational age after the opinion of two registered medical practitioners under these conditions – (1) If the woman is either a survivor of sexual assault or rape or incest (2) If she is a minor (3) If her marital status has changed during the ongoing pregnancy (i.e. either widowhood or divorce) (4) If she has major physical disabilities or is mentally ill (5) On the grounds of foetal malformation incompatible with life or if the child is born, it would be seriously handicapped (6) If the woman is in humanitarian settings or disaster, or emergency situations as declared by the government.

Besides, if the pregnancy has to be terminated beyond the 24-week gestational age, it can only be done on the grounds of foetal abnormalities if a four-member Medical Board, as set up in each State under the Act, gives permission to do so.

The law, notwithstanding any of the above conditions, also provides that where it is immediately necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman, abortion can be carried out at any time by a single registered medical practitioner.

Unmarried women can also access abortion under the above-mentioned conditions, because it does not mention the requirement of spousal consent. If the woman is a minor, however, the consent of a guardian is required.

Have there been judicial interventions in cases of abortions?

Despite the fact that existing laws do not permit unconditional abortion in the country, in the landmark 2017 Right to Privacy judgement in the *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India and others*, the Supreme Court had held that the decision by a pregnant person on whether to continue a pregnancy or not is part of such a person's right to privacy as well and, therefore, the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Several women annually approach the apex court and High Courts, when medical boards reject their application to access MTP beyond the gestational upper limit (now 24 weeks), seeking permission to abort a pregnancy, mostly in cases where it is a result of sexual assault or when there is a foetal abnormality.

A report authored by advocate Anubha Rastogi for the Pratiya Campaign said that in the 15 months leading up to August 2020, High Courts across the country were hearing 243 petitions of women seeking permission to abort. In February this year, the Calcutta High Court allowed a 37-year-old woman, who was 34 weeks into her pregnancy, to get a medical abortion as the foetus was diagnosed with an incurable spinal condition. This judgment allowed abortion for the furthest gestational in the country so far.

For autonomy: Protesters march during an abortion rights rally in Austin, Texas on June 25. • AFP

What are the criticisms against the abortion law?

According to a 2018 study in the *Lancet*, 15.6 million abortions were accessed every year in India as of 2015. The MTP Act requires abortion to be performed only by doctors with specialisation in gynaecology or obstetrics. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 2019-20 report on Rural Health Statistics indicates that there is a 70% shortage of obstetrician-gynaecologists in rural India.

As the law does not permit abortion at will, critics say that it pushes women to access illicit abortions under unsafe conditions. Statistics put the annual number of unsafe and illegal abortions performed in India at 8,00,000, many of them resulting in maternal mortality.

EXPLAINER

Understanding the Supreme Court verdict on the Zakia Jafri protest petition

When did the SIT submit its report? Why did the apex court find fault with two former Gujarat State officers?

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court dismissed the protest petition filed by Zakia Jafri, widow of late Congress leader Ehsan Jafri, challenging the clean chit given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, then Chief Minister of Gujarat and 63 other senior officials of the State in their alleged role in the 2002 communal riots.
- The court held that the inaction of "some officials of one section of the State administration" cannot be the basis to infer a pre-planned criminal conspiracy by the State government.
- Within hours of the judgment, human rights activist Teesta Setalvad, said to be behind Ms. Jafri's prolonged legal battle, was detained by police.

ZIYA US SALAM

The story so far: The Supreme Court dismissed the protest petition filed by Zakia Jafri, widow of late Congress leader Ehsan Jafri, challenging the clean chit given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, then Chief Minister of Gujarat and 63 other senior officials of the State for their alleged role in the 2002 communal riots. The apex court in its 452-page verdict rubbished allegations of a "larger conspiracy" in the Gulberg Housing Society case in which Ehsan Jafri was among those killed. The massacre took place shortly after the Godhra train tragedy which had claimed the lives of 59 kar sevaks on February 27, 2002.

What was the apex court's verdict?

The three-judge Bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar held that the inaction of "some officials of one section of the State administration" cannot be the basis to infer a pre-planned criminal conspiracy by the State government, and found no fault in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) report. "There is no material worth the name to even create a suspicion indicative of the meeting of the minds of all concerned at some level; and in particular, the bureaucrats, politicians, public prosecutors or the members of the

Zakia Jafri. • PTI

state political establishment – for hatching a larger criminal conspiracy at the highest level to cause and precipitate mass violence against the minority community across the State," the judgment said. The court further upheld the report of the SIT, stating, "No fault can be found with the approach of the SIT in submitting final report dated 8.2.2012". It held "the final report backed by firm logic, expositing analytical mind and dealing with all aspects objectively".

"The SIT has not found any conspiracy, linking separate and disparate acts of arson and looting or outrageous claims made in sting operations or individual utterances/publications of purported hate speech." The Bench upheld the decision of the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate to accept the closure of the SIT – which was itself appointed by the Supreme Court in 2008 – rejecting the protest petition filed by Zakia Jafri.

What were the criticisms of the Supreme Court?

The court came down heavily on two State officers, Sanjiv Bhatt and R.B. Sreekumar and former Home Minister of Gujarat Haren Pandya, stating, "At the end of the day, it appears to us that a coalesced effort of the disgruntled officials of the State of Gujarat along with others was to create a sensation by making revelations which were false to their own knowledge. The falsity of their claims had been fully exposed by the SIT after a thorough investigation."

The court held that the officers were not part of the meeting to decide the future course of action when the violence had broken out on Feb 27, 2002. Mr. Bhatt, it may be recalled, had told the Supreme Court that on the night of Feb 27, 2002, Mr. Modi had asked the police brass to let the Hindus vent their anger. Likewise, Mr. Sreekumar had in his deposition before the Nanavati-Shah commission pointed to a dubious role by the administration during the violence.

Such officials need to be in the dock for "keeping pot boiling" the court said, pointing out, "Intriguingly, the present proceedings have been pursued for last 16 years with the audacity to question the integrity of every functionary involved in the process of exposing the devious strategem adopted. As a matter of fact, all those involved in such abuse of process, need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with the law."

Incidentally, the SIT headed by former CBI director R.K. Raghavan had submitted a closure report almost a decade ago. Back in 2012, it gave a clean chit to Mr. Modi and 63 others, finding no prosecutable evidence against them. The Metropolitan Magistrate accepted the report following which Zakia Jafri went to Gujarat High Court. In October 2017, the State High Court dismissed her petition. In September 2018, Ms. Jafri knocked the doors of the Supreme Court and filed a protest petition against acceptance of the SIT report. In December last year, the apex court reserved its judgment.

What happened in Gulberg Society?

As tensions were on a high in Ahmedabad after the Godhra tragedy, around 90 local residents had gathered at the Gulberg residence of Ehsan Jafri, hoping for safety at the former Parliamentarian's place from the mob on the rampage. Mr. Jafri, apprehending violence, called many officers and leaders for help. In the absence of any practical aid, Mr. Jafri had lost hope. Around 9.30 in the morning, the first attack took place. The police assured help but soon a mob laid siege to Gulberg Society. Gas cylinders were hurled inside the premises from outside and kerosene cans were lobbed from the road. The house was set on fire. Mr. Jafri stepped out, pleading with the mob for the life of the people inside the house. He was then dragged to the road, mutilated and then killed. His body was not recovered. Sixty-nine people were killed, as claimed by local residents; officially 39 casualties were reported.

Further, as an eyewitness recalled in Rakesh Sharma's National award-winning documentary *Final Solution* based on the Gujarat violence, "The police removed the names of the main culprits of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal from the FIR. We were offered money to take the case back, not to recognise the culprits."

What was the aftermath of the verdict?

Within hours of the Supreme Court judgment, human rights activist Teesta Setalvad, said to be behind Ms. Jafri's prolonged legal battle, was detained by the police. Mr. Sreekumar was also arrested. Mr. Bhatt is already under custody.

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Implications of India's new VPN rules

Will virtual servers be able to bypass the new CERT-in rules on virtual private networks?

ABHISHEK CHATTERJEE
NABEEL AHMED

THE GIST

- On April 28, India's cybersecurity agency passed a rule mandating Virtual Private Network (VPN) providers to record and keep their customers' logs for 180 days. It also asked these firms to collect and store customer data for up to five years. It further mandated that any cybercrime recorded must be reported to the CERT-In within six hours of the crime.
- Surfshark VPN stated that taking such radical action that highly impacts the privacy of millions of people in India will most likely be counterproductive and strongly damage the IT sector's growth in the country.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said that the rules are applicable to "any entity whatsoever", regardless of whether they have a physical presence in India or not, as long as they deliver services to Indian users.

The story so far: On April 28, India's cybersecurity agency passed a rule mandating Virtual Private Network (VPN) providers to record and keep their customers' logs for 180 days. It also asked these firms to collect and store customer data for up to five years. It further mandated that any cybercrime recorded must be reported to the CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team) within six hours of the crime. The new directives, if passed, will be effective from June 28. In response to the CERT-In rules, Nord VPN, one of the world's largest VPN providers, has said it is moving its servers out of the country. Two other firms, Express VPN and Surfshark, said they will shut down their physical servers in India and cater to users in India through virtual servers located in Singapore and the U.K.

Who all will be affected by the new rules?
CERT-In directions are applicable to data centres, virtual private server (VPS) providers, cloud service providers, virtual asset service providers, virtual asset exchange providers, custodian wallet providers and government organisations. Firms that provide Internet proxy-like services through VPN technologies also come under the ambit of the new rule. Corporate entities are not under the scanner.

What is a virtual server, and what are its uses?
A virtual server is a simulated server environment built on an actual physical server. It recreates the functionality of a dedicated physical server. The virtual twin functions like a physical server that runs software and uses resources of the physical server. Multiple virtual servers can run on a single physical server.

Virtualising servers helps reallocate resources for changing workloads. Converting one physical server into multiple virtual servers allows organisations to use processing power and resources more efficiently by running multiple operating systems and applications on one partitioned server. Running multiple operating systems and applications on a single physical machine reduces cost as it consumes less space and hardware. Virtualisation also reduces cost as maintaining a virtual server infrastructure is low compared to physical server infrastructure. Virtual servers are also said to offer higher security than a physical server infrastructure as the operating system and applications are enclosed in a virtual machine. This helps contain security attacks and malicious behaviour inside the virtual machine.

Express VPN and Surfshark have said that they will shut down their physical servers in India and cater to users in India through virtual servers located in Singapore and the U.K.

Virtual servers are also useful in testing and debugging applications in different operating systems and versions without having to manually install and run them in several physical machines. Software developers can create, run, and test new software applications on a virtual server without taking processing power away from other users.

Can server relocation and virtualisation help VPN providers circumvent the new rules?
The FAQs published by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) regarding the cybersecurity directions offers some clarity on relocation and virtualisation. It says the rules are applicable to "any entity whatsoever" in the matter of cyber incidents and cyber security incidents, regardless of whether they have a physical presence in India or not, as long as they deliver services to Indian users. The service providers who do not have a physical presence in India but offer services to the users in the country, have to designate a point of contact to liaise with CERT-In. Also, logs may be stored outside India as long as the obligation to produce logs to CERT-In is adhered to by the entities in a reasonable time.

VPN companies, like Surfshark, on the other hand believe that by removing their physical servers to countries outside India they will comply with the laws applicable to their activities, the company said to *The Hindu*.

How will the law impact India's IT sector?
In response to *The Hindu's* queries on the impact of removal of physical servers from the country on jobs, SurfsharkVPN said "It would be difficult to estimate the exact number of individuals impacted in terms of employment because we were renting servers from Indian providers."

VPN suppliers leaving India is not good for its burgeoning IT sector. Taking such radical action that highly impacts the privacy of millions of people in India will most likely be counterproductive and strongly damage the IT sector's growth in the country, the company said in a release last week.

It estimated that 254.9 million Indians have had their accounts breached since 2004 and raised its concern that collecting excessive amounts of data within Indian jurisdiction without robust protection mechanisms could lead to even more breaches.

The Netherlands-based company further said that they have never received a similar directive on storing customer logs from any other governments in the world.

Does China have similiar rules regarding VPN usage?
Though not all VPNs are officially banned in China, only government-approved VPNs are officially permitted to function, Syed Ali Akhtar, Fellow at the National Law University, Delhi told *The Hindu*.

Visitors and Chinese citizens use VPNs to circumvent China's Great Firewall, which has blocked access to many websites, keywords and even IP addresses.

Government-approved VPNs have to register with the Chinese government and have to comply with data requests during investigations. However, cases of tourists being penalised for using non- government approved VPNs have not been reported, Akhtar said.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Colombia recently elected a new President in former urban guerrilla activist Gustavo Petro. Here is a quiz on rebels who went on to become presidents in their respective countries.

1 Led by a Marxist lawyer Raul Sendic, this rebel group active in the 1960s and 70s was named after the indigenous revolutionary Tupac Amaru from the 18th century. One of the members of the group later on went on to become a popular president of Uruguay. Name him and the group he was part of.

2 Part of a left wing urban guerrilla outfit in the late 1960s that fought against military dictatorship in the country, this person was captured and tortured in prison in the early 1970s. Later, the person went on to become a prominent member of the political party named "Democratic Labour Party" and a provincial minister, before quitting and joining the Workers Party in the early 2000s. Identify the person who went on to become the President of the country in 2011.

3 A former corporal in the Portuguese army, this rebel and freedom fighter first struggled against Portuguese colonialism in his country and later against an invading neighbouring country which went on to occupy his native land. After a UN sanctioned peacekeeping force brokered a new administration, he was released from prison and went on to head the newly emerged nation, which became the first new sovereign state of the 21st century. Name him and the country.

4 Known by his nom de guerre Commander Leonel Gonzalez, during the country's civil war between rebels belonging to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the U.S. supported regime in the 1980s, went on to become the only ex-rebel to lead the country as President in 2016. Name him.

5 As a political activist while pursuing a law degree at the University College Dublin in 1916, this person was suspected of association with the leaders of the Easter Uprising in that year, launched by Irish Republicans against British Rule. Later, a prominent freedom fighter, he went on to become President in independent India (the only one to do so as an independent candidate in the presidential elections). Name him.

Name this former guerrilla fighter, and the leader of an independence movement that propelled him to become the first President of his independent country. • FILE PHOTO

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the June 24 edition of the daily quiz: 1. In the FIFA quarterfinals of 1986, this footballer scored the best goal in World Cup history against England. **Ans: Diego Maradona**
2. This former physician famously called 'el narigón' coached the Argentinian football team in the 1986 FIFA World Cup. **Ans: Carlos Bilardo**
3. This footballer played in the 1930 World Cup finals as part of the Argentinian team only to go on and win the World Cup in 1934 for Italy. **Ans: Luis Monti**
4. This footballer was the captain of the team that won the 1978 World Cup. **Ans: Daniel Passarella**
5. This Ballon d'Or winner played for the youth team of Newell's Old Boys club in Argentina. **Ans: Lionel Messi**
Visual: This former footballer who is currently the coach of the Argentina Under-17 football team. **Ans: Pablo Aimar**

Early Birds: Dhruv Yadav| Azarudeen. A| Ravindra Kumar Sahu| Kanchan Jain| Prerna Singh

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Don't get bent out of shape now

Is doing well or doing good the better response?

S. UPENDRAN

What is the meaning and origin of the expression 'get bent out of shape'? (K. Naresh, Chennai)
This is an expression that is frequently used in American English in informal contexts. When someone 'gets bent out of shape', he becomes very angry about something. The individual takes offence at something, and in the process, loses his cool. This doesn't necessarily mean that the person has a short temper. Something has occurred to make the person angry. We all get bent out of shape every now and then.

Mohan has always been known for his integrity. So, it didn't surprise anyone that when he saw the rampant corruption in his new department, he was so bent out of shape that he fired everyone.

When his best friend didn't invite him to the party, people thought Bala would be bent out of shape. But, he wasn't.

As for the exact origin of this expression, nobody is really sure.

What is the correct response to the question, 'How are you?' Is it 'I'm doing well' or 'I'm doing good'? (M. Aditi, Bengaluru)
A lot of people generally say, 'I'm fine, thank you' or just 'Fine, thank you'. In the past, it was common to hear people reply 'I'm doing well', but never 'I'm doing good'. The reply 'I'm doing good' was considered ungrammatical because in this sentence 'good' is being used as an adverb – according to the rules of grammar, 'good' can be used as an adjective (good boy/book), but not as an adverb (ran good/wrote good). In such sentences, 'well' was to be preferred over 'good' because it could be used an adverb. 'He ran well in the race' and 'He wrote well in the exam'. This was the standard explanation as to why 'I'm doing good' was unacceptable as a reply. In the past few decades, however, 'I'm doing good' is frequently heard as the standard response to 'How are you doing?' and 'How are you?' – especially, in American English in informal contexts. While those that believe that grammar rules must be followed shudder whenever they hear 'I'm doing good', there is nothing they can do about it. It has become a legitimate reply.

How is the word 'cupboard' pronounced? (Mukesh Khanna, Pune)
The first syllable is pronounced like the word 'cub', and the following 'oar' sounds like the 'a' in 'china'. The word is pronounced 'KUB-ed' with the stress on the first syllable. The 'p' and 'b' in the spelling are reduced to single sound – 'b'. We all know what a cupboard is. It is a piece of furniture with shelves which we use to store things – clothes, utensils, grocery, etc. Nowadays, of course, we have inbuilt cupboards and closets. When it was first used, the term 'cupboard' referred to a 'board' or a small side table on which one placed the cups, plates and cutlery. With the passage of time, the word took on a wider meaning.

You are not angry with people when you laugh at them. Humour teaches tolerance.
-Somerset Maugham

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For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Suspension of metro irks passengers

They want BMRCL to share information well in advance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Suspending metro services partially on the Purple Line, citing maintenance work, has become a routine almost every month. Irked by the suspension of services, metro passengers demand Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) keep them informed well in advance..

Usually, BMRCL takes up maintenance on M.G. Road to Baiyappanahalli metro line on a Saturday by suspending the metro services from 9.30 p.m. The line is part of the Purple Line from Kengeri to Baiyappanahalli. Six stations are operational on this reach that includes M.G. Road, Indiranagar, S.V. Road, and Baiyappanahalli. This reach is operational for more than 10 years.

When asked why BMRCL suspends metro services from M.G. Road to Baiyappanahalli, MD Anjum Parwez said, "The M.G. Road to Baiyappanahalli line has been operational since 2011. We are carrying out regular maintenance work to fix issues related to bearing. These maintenance works are carried out during weekends to minimize inconvenience to metro passengers by suspending services at night. Works related to bearing cannot be carried out while the line is operational".

On Saturday (June 25), the BMRCL carried out maintenance works between M.G. Road and Trinity metro station. On May 28 too, maintenance works were carried between the two stations.

In April, on a Saturday metro services were suspended to carry out maintenance work between Indiranagar and S.V. Road stations. In March too, on a Saturday, services were suspended for maintenance work on the same stretch.

Regular passengers say that there is a need to give more publicity on disruptions in services, as most times they get to know about the non-availability of services from M.G. Road to Indiranagar only after reaching the station.

"Usually, they display a press note at the entry of the station about maintenance work. If they start making announcements two to three days in advance most of the commuters will get to know about that. Informing about maintenance work a day in advance will not help the commuters," said Abhilash M.

Priyanka Nithin, another passenger, said: "The BMRCL should use their social media accounts to communicate about disruption in services. I did not find anything about recent suspension of service on their social media account".

The MD said that in future measures will be taken to make passengers more aware about the suspension of services whenever required. The official also said that bus services are be ing provided during the suspended hours of services.

Heavy rush at IKEA store affects traffic flow on Tumakuru Road

Newly opened outlet attracted a huge crowd on weekend and people had to wait for nearly three hours to get inside

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Huge crowds flocking to the newly opened IKEA store at Nagasandra disrupted traffic flow on a stretch of Tumakuru Road over the weekend.

The newly opened outlet received a huge crowd on weekends and people had to wait for nearly three hours to get inside the store.

The police said that many people, who had come to the outlet on weekends, might have thought that the new outlet had multiplexes, food joints, play areas for children, and others. This is one of the factors for heavy rush, they said.

They have reached out to the public through social media and other forms to inform them that the new store is about home furnishing.

As many as 50 police personnel in shifts, along with the staff of the store, were deployed at strategic locations and at the entry and exit points of the store, to inform people not to drive into the venue.

DCP Traffic (West) Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain said, "To remove vehicles parked on the stretch near the outlet, we have deployed towing vehicles. Security staff of the IKEA also helped to remove vehicles parked on the roadside or near residential areas. No fine was imposed for vehicles that are towed".

The official said that as the designated parking area was full at the IKEA outlet, the motorists were directed to go to BIEC ground to park and take a shuttle service provided by IKEA.

"Announcements and direction boards are placed on Tumakuru Road and the Jindal underpass. Customers are requested to follow the guidelines to avoid huge traffic congestion," a social media post by the traffic police said. The police said that more than 15,000 people might have come to visit the store. Chandrashekhar B., who went to IKEA on Saturday, said reaching the store was a herculean task and it took three hours in the queue even before entering.

The traffic police were making announcements warning people that it will take a waiting time of three hours to enter the store and were asking people to join the queue only if they were ready for the same. However, none were deterred, he said.

Sushma Prasad, who went on Sunday, said there was absolute chaos on Tumakuru Road. "It took us over an hour to reach the store from BIEC where we parked our car, and later, we had to wait for multiple hours in the queue to enter the store," she said.

After IKEA opened in the city, the footfall at Nagasandra station, part of the Green Line metro, saw a jump.

Data shared by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) states that on June 21, close to 14,000 people boarded from the station and it had jumped to more than 30,000 on Saturday (June 25). On Sunday, boarding of close to 20,000 passengers was recorded between till 6 p.m.

Chief PRO of BMRCL B.L. Yeshwanth Chavan said, "There is a jump in footfall after the IKEA store opened. However, the station can handle more crowds and the required infrastructure is in place. In future, IKEA will build a foot overbridge directly connecting the metro station with the store".

Traffic jam near the IKEA store and (right) the crowd at the store on Sunday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

'This will have chilling effect on fight for justice'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A group of progressive organisations and several leading writers and intellectuals held a demonstration on the steps of Town Hall on Sunday against the arrest of activist Teesta Setalwad and former IPS officer R.B. Srikumar in the Gujarat riots conspiracy case.

Linguist G.N. Devy said while no one has been arrested for the murder of former parliamentarian Ehsan Jafri during the riots, the support of Ms. Setalwad or others for Zakia Jafri's fight for justice could not be construed as a "conspiracy".

"This will have a chilling effect on those who are relying on courts to fight for justice," he said. "Initiating State action following an observation made in the court is definitely not in the spirit of the law of the land," he said.

"The targeting of human rights activists and those who have spoken out against the present regime is an assault on our democratic and constitutional principles. We stand with them and demand their immediate release," said Bahutva Karnataka, a coalition of several progressive organisations, in a statement.

Jio executives booked for damaging road

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Wilson Garden police on Friday booked executives of Reliance Jio for damaging a newly-asphalted road leading to Lalbagh, causing ₹30 lakh loss to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Anantharaju K., Assistant Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure Department, South Division, BBMP, who went to inspect the stretch between Subbaiah Circle to Lalbagh North Gate Road on Wednesday, saw the road had been dug up by executives of Reliance Jio to lay OFC cables.

The police charged the executives of the company under The Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984, and also under Section 336 (rash or negligently as to endanger human life or the personal safety of others) and Section 427 (causes loss or damage) for further investigation.

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Accidental fire in dargah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Panic prevailed among the residents of Tannery Road for some time, when an accidental fire broke out at Mastani Dargah on Saturday night. The caretaker and a few others present rushed out to safety as the fire spread and alerted the fire control room. No one was injured in the mishap, the police said.

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Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (June 27, Monday), the following explainers are available:

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- Understanding the Supreme Court verdict on the Zakia Jafri protest petition
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MONDAY, JUN. 27
RISE 05:56 SET 18:49
RISE 04:16 SET 17:30

TUESDAY, JUN. 28
RISE 05:56 SET 18:49
RISE 05:03 SET 18:21

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 29
RISE 05:57 SET 18:50
RISE 05:53 SET 19:12

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant.

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Police destroy 4,353 kg of drugs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

As part of observing the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the city police on Sunday destroyed 4,353 kg of synthetic drugs seized between August 2021 and June 2022, worth ₹41.8 crore.

Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy said that since the last one-and-a-half years the city police have registered 6,271 cases.

THE HINDU
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'Skill of how to use available knowledge makes careers'

Huge turnout at The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling 2022

TANIA ANNY
SAMHITHA B.S.
ADITHI HOLLA
TUMAKURU

Students at The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling 2022 and (below) dignitaries releasing the handbook, in Tumakuru on Sunday.

With all information at one's fingertips just a click away, it was no longer about knowledge but the skill of how to use it, that makes careers. While there was no straight-jacket formula for a successful career, what mattered was how best one pursues the chosen subject and field, said Balakrishna P. Shetty, Vice-Chancellor, Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education.

He was speaking at The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling 2022, held at Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru, on Sunday.

The event, which offered career guidance ranging from Medicine, Engineering, and several offbeat career choices and entrance exams, saw over 600 students and parents participate.

Stressing on the need to allow students to pursue careers of their choice and that parents should not impose their choices on their wards, Shivakumariah CEO, Siddaganga Institute of Technology (SIT), advised the students to also have a healthy discussion with their parents and not take decisions in haste.

K.V. Suresh, an Engineering professor from SIT, said more than the stream of Engineering, what mattered today was the skillset a student acquires during their study.

The event also saw much stress on the new horizons and opportunities available for students.

One of the speakers, Pradeep Gururaja from Deeksha College, said there were several offbeat fields that offered immense opportunities today.

"For instance, if the IT sector is growing at a rate of 9%, the advertising sector is growing at an exponential rate of 22%. There are several such opportunities today," he said. There is a lot of demand for courses that teach Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, said Harshith S.R., senior admissions coordinator at Presidency University, who was also part of the event.

Rohit Kumar, who came to the event with his daughter, said after the event he had decided not to pressure his daughter on the course she wants to choose.

"It is up to her to choose her career path. The session will help her make an informed choice," he said.

Chaithrashree K.R. of Sapthagiri PU college, Tumakuru, told *the Hindu* that the event was helpful and it cleared many doubts she had. Another student Ranjitha described the session as an "eye-opener".

The next set of the counselling events will be held in Bengaluru South and Hubballi on July 2, and Ballari, Mysuru, and Davangere on July 3.

The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling in Hubballi on July 2

Event will help students take the right career decisions

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The 20th edition of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling 2022 Karnataka will be held at 10 locations in nine cities in June and July.

The event will cover educational topics like CET, COMEDK, NEET, general education (offbeat courses), Law, Pure Science, Arts, Science & Commerce, Management, PGDM, Engineering & Medicine. The event sets a benchmark in educational and professional guidance. It acts as a platform to connect students and parents with speakers and educational institutions.

The event also helps students to take the right decisions after getting the necessary counselling and guidance. Platinum Sponsor for the event are: Presidency University, Bengaluru, Ramaiah University, Bengaluru, and Reva University, Bengaluru.

The Gold Sponsors are Cambridge Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, Nitte Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru. Silver Sponsors for the event are ACS College of Engineering, Bengaluru; K. S. Group of Institutions, Bengaluru; Rajarajeswari College of Engineering, Bengaluru; Soundarya Institute of Management and Science, Bengaluru; Universal Group of Institutions, Bengaluru, Atria Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and TAPMI, a unit of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru. Other associate Sponsors are: CMR University, Bengaluru, Karnataka State Open Univeristy, Mysuru; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar, and Sri Sairam College of Engineering, Bengaluru. Timings for registration is between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For details, contact: 9739273958 / 9448160126 / 9448871815. Entry is free. First 300 walk-ins will get a surprise gift. All participating students will get free English proficiency test, STEP.

The schedule

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Bengaluru South	July 2	Mangala Mantapa Auditorium	NMKRV College for Women campus 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru
Hubballi	July 2	K.L.E. Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar,Hubballi
Ballari	July 3	BPSC Pre-University College	BPSC Pre-University College, Anantapur Road, Ballari
Mysuru	July 3	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering	P.B. No.206, Gokulam 3rd Stage, Mysuru
Davangere	July 3	Bapuji Business School	Bapuji MBA College , Lake View Campus, S.S. Layout, Davangere

To pre-register for the event and STEP test, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3N2Sy2F

THE HINDU EDUCATION PLUS CAREER COUNSELLING 2022 KARNATAKA

FROM PAGE ONE

Ten killed in two separate accidents in State

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has announced a solatium of ₹5 lakh each to the families of those killed in the accident.

Speaking to presspersons in Belagavi on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that all arrangements have been made to provide free treatment to the survivors. He also said that in addition to the ₹5 lakh compensation, another ₹2 lakh each for the families will be released by the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

The compensation of ₹5 lakh will be provided by the Labour Department as those killed were workers, he said.

Three persons died on the spot in an accident involving a car and a truck on the outskirts of Nagamangala town in Mandya district late on Saturday night.

The victims were identified as Devaraju, 42, of Beereshwara village in Nagamangala taluk; Manjunath, 52, of Vadesamudra village; and Manjaiah, 64, of Kennalu village in Pandavapura taluk.

The accident occurred on the Chamarajanagar-Jewargi highway on the outskirts of Nagamangala when the car by which Devaraju and others were travelling, collided with a truck going towards Belagavi from Mysuru.

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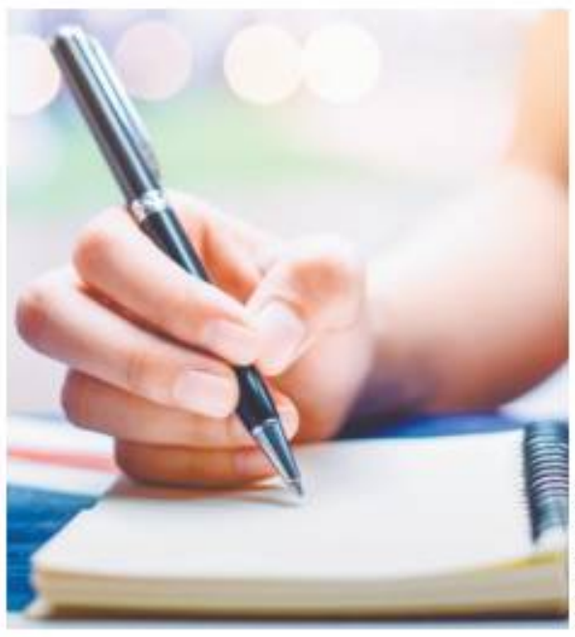
The write way

Writing by hand strengthens memory power, muscle power, and concentration span, which augment the cognitive ability to process information.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

K. ELANGO AND
V. ANITHA DEVI

Writing or drawing by hand is a natural process that every child is fascinated by. Children tend to exhibit their artistic skills on the walls of homes. In school, they are taught to write the alphabet with tools such as slates and chalk, graduating to pencils and pens. However, today, writing by hand has become obsolete.

What is initiated as an imitation of letters at the primary level continues systematically with the cloning of lines of the prescribed texts, through the academic years. Worse is the scene at the tertiary level, with students settling for easy options of either downloading texts or buying projects from ghost writers who also cut and paste from websites. This has become common in the realm of research as well.

No curriculum

Lack of writing literacy is not new, as there has never been a curriculum for this. A dry grammar-based approach was adopted, which dealt with parts of speech, subject-verb concordance, and not so important aspects such as punctuations, capitals and so on. Learners were rarely initiated into the process of writing to generate and transmit ideas, which would characterise writers. Another critical reason that causes writing incompetency is the concurrent skill of reading. "Read a thousand books and your words will flow like a river." The skill of reading is also on the brink of collapse and so, the intertwining of these twin skills ought to be harnessed. With few being enamoured by writing, technology arrived as a boon. The keyboard overpowered the skill of writing by hand, the autocorrect mode made learning of spelling, grammar and the mechanics of writing redundant. However, experts have established that handwriting is a complex skill that combines kinaesthetic movement and cognitive process, leading to an enhanced learning power.

Human evolution has repeatedly reminded us that a skill once lost is rarely retrieved. Therefore, although it may seem a regressive step, revival of writing by hand ought to be welcomed. Conventional wisdom has proved that physical writing strengthens memory and muscle power, and concentration span which augment the cognitive ability to process information. The charm of handwritten messages on special occasions still holds more power than a text message.

K. Elango is the National Secretary, ELTAI, and (Former) Professor of English, Anna University, Chennai

V. Anitha Devi is Associate Professor, Department of English, VIT, Vellore

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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RN No. RAREMG/1870/46945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

CAREERS

Want to be an oenophile?

Well-known sommelier Paolo Basso talks about the qualities required to work in the wine industry

ARCHANA SUBRAMANIAN

The wine industry employed 47,684 people in 2021, and statistics show that it has seen an exponential growth. It is expected to surpass $420 billion in revenue worldwide this year, and more than $528 billion in gross sales by 2025. With the future looking promising, the industry offers lucrative career options. Well-known sommelier Paolo Basso offers a glimpse into his world.

"As a sommelier, some of the basic things you should know to stay ahead of the curve are: be curious, attentive to details, and lucid about the good processes of fabrication, storage, sales, and so on. Wine cannot be made everywhere or just anyhow. It is a perishable and natural product that requires lots of care. Creativity should be encouraged, but the basics should be duly respected," he begins.

As a sommelier

Wine is a beverage that consumers should adapt to, explains Basso, as it is an ambassador of the region it is produced in. He began his career in gourmet restaurants, which he says, is a common path for most sommeliers. "But my entrepreneurial journey began in 2007 with the creation of my own wine production, trade and consultancy company. I now produce five different wines in Ticino, Switzerland. Since 2014, I select wines for Air France, which won the coveted 'Best Airline Wine List of the World' award in 2018 and 2019. Today, I am a visiting lecturer at Glion Institute of Higher Education, Switzerland, where I teach international students, who are passionate about hospitality.

Basso lists the qualities a sommelier should possess – a genuine love for wine, understanding of its complexity, knowledge regarding the wine-making process, have a natural attraction for geography, history and traditions, and understand people and their habits.

At the Glion Institute of Higher Education, Basso teaches a course called "The Universe of Wine", which covers the principles of wine, from its history to the degustation. He points out that, in the luxury hospitality business and in restaurants generally, beverages represent around 30 to 50% of the revenue. "With such financial stakes, it is essential to know how to manage wine stocks." Since the Bachelor's programme involves two internships, many students opt for the first as a sommelier, to apply the practical training Basso offers. Even the second internship, which is more administrative in nature, has students opting to look at the management and financial aspects of being a sommelier.

Careers

Job options involve cultivation, transformation, and sales. A sommelier works in the commercial environment and in various business settings, from a wine shop to a restaurant or bar and any business selling wine. He/she selects the wine, making sure the list matches the client's expectations both in terms of the wine and the price. A great sommelier needs to master food and wine pairings, to highlight the wine in question.

"To me, oenology should be combined with strong knowledge in food service and finance. Today, considering the immense business that is wine and the revenue that it generates, that also means managing important sums of money for a perishable product. Great management is essential in order to have a wine cellar that is efficiently provisioned, both in terms of quality and in terms of quantity.," stresses Basso.

The reporter was part of a media contingent taken on tour by Glion Institute of Higher Education, Switzerland.

ETCETERA

NIU opens B.Tech admissions

Noida International University (NIU) has announced admissions for its B.Tech. programme for the academic session 2022-23. Courses include CSE (AI/ML/Data Science), Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, ECE (IoT), Mechanical Engineering(Industrial Robotics), Mechatronics Engineering, Information Technology and Biotechnology.

Deadline: July 31

To apply, visit https://admissions.niu.edu.in/ For details of eligibility and other criteria, visit https://niu.edu.in/

Applications open at Sanskriti University

Sanskriti University, Mathura, invites applications for diploma, undergraduate, and postgraduate programmes in Engineering, Management and Commerce, Education, Special Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Fashion Designing, Law and Legal Studies, Yoga and Naturopathy, Tourism and Hotel Management, Medical and Allied Sciences, Basic and Applied Sciences, Ayurveda, Unani, and Nursing courses.

Deadline: July 31

For details of eligibility and how to apply, visit https://bit.ly/3zQQ8Bq

B.Sc. Poultry Science

Suguna Institute of Poultry Management has opened applications for the three-year B.Sc. in Poultry Science for the academic year starting August 2022.

Deadline: July end

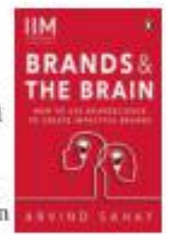
Write to info@sugunainstitute.com or admissions@sugunainstitute.com to register

Innovate India Coding Championship

Coding Ninjas, in association with AICTE and Chandigarh University has launched the 'Innovate India Coding Championship (IICC) 2022' to encourage skill-based programming. Students pursuing BE, BTECH, BCA and MCA in any AICTE or UGC affiliated colleges can participate. The three staged competition will be held online at Coding Ninjas Online Coding Portal and registered participants can join from anywhere in the country. Registrations are open. Visit https://bit.ly/3HF9bQI

ON THE SHELF

Brands and The Brain



This book offers an understanding of the link between the human brain and brand management principles as well as activities. It talks about brain-operating principles and their impact on how humans perceive brands, analyses how modern brands are created by leveraging brain functioning and explains the indispensable role of the human brain in creating, sustaining, and rejuvenating brands.

AUTHOR: Arvind Sahay;
PUBLISHER: Penguin Random House; PRICE: ₹499

Get Job Ready

From how to gain job readiness skills and experience through volunteering, internships, class projects, extracurricular activities to creating a cover letter and résumé, handling an interview, creating a LinkedIn profile, and finding a mentor, here is a book that guides one on building important skills beyond the education provided in colleges.

AUTHOR: Vasu Eda;
PUBLISHER: Penguin Random House; PRICE: ₹299.

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Those responsible for caste system are now questioning reservation: Ex-CM

Education, power, and resources do not belong to any particular caste, says Siddaramaiah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that those who were responsible for the caste system under the Chaturvarna system and thus causing inequality in society were now questioning the reservation system provided for the larger population.

"Wasn't the fact that education, power, and resources could only be enjoyed in the past by Brahmins, Kshatriyas, and Vaishyas itself was like reservation? Was it not injustice that a large population of Shudras were denied literacy and denied the opportunity to enjoy what they produced?" he asked. "The caste system was continued in society to protect the interest of a certain class and

Retired High Court judge H.N. Nagamohan Das with former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and music director Hamsalekha during the release of his book in Bengaluru on Sunday.

this caused political and economic inequality," he said during the launch of the book *Myth and Reality*, on reservation authored by retired judge of the High Court of Karnataka H.N. Nagamohan Das, here on Sunday.

The former Chief Minister said: "What prevailed then was an unwritten reservation and who brought this? Who enjoyed the resources? Those who brought in this system are now seeking answers to how long would the reservation be continued? Or why should reservation be there? Those who were responsible for inequality in society are asking now why there is no creamy layer for all." He said that education, power, and resources did not belong to any particular caste.

Asking if the Constitution could have been written in the absence of B.R. Ambedkar, Mr. Siddaramaiah asked if Ambedkar was lesser than anyone in terms of intelligence. "Even after Kaka Kalekar commission (first backward classes' commission) report was rejected in 1955, there has been no struggle seeking another committee. We have become silent," said the former Chief Minister. "Who opposed the Mandal commission report that provided 27% reservation to the backward classes?"

Mr. Siddaramaiah also said: "Some people get angry when I ask who opposed the reservation system brought in at Mysore princely State after Miller Commission report. Some get angry at me when I say Aryans came from the Middle East and committed atrocities on us Dravidians. If I speak alone, 20 people scold me. That is why no one amongst us speaks. They keep quiet stating that it is Siddaramaiah who gets the scolding and not us. This is unfortunate."

Stating that reservation was not alms, he said: "It is our constitutional right. We kept silent enough for long. If we keep quiet, we cannot bring about an equal society. Only when we have self-respect, we can live honourably."

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Sugar bowl lags behind

Mandya district, also known as sugar bowl of Karnataka, scored poorly in the II Pre-University Certificate examination this year and it secured 29th rank out of 32 districts. It had scored 17th rank in 2017. A total of 58.77% students were declared pass in the district, which has abundant water resources and good connectivity to the State capital as well as cultural capital Mysuru. Its pass percentage declined by five percentage points when compared with 2020.

Worried over the poor performance and future of children, despite the district having a good school infrastructure, Congress MLC Dinesh Guli Gowda, who represents the district, wrote to Minister for Excise K. Gopalaiah, who is the district in-charge Minister, to convene a meeting of educationists to find ways of improving the quality of education and pass percentage. He also expressed apprehension over the rate of unemployment in the district if students fail to excel in this competitive world. Whether those who do pass are getting jobs is altogether another question.

Refund full ticket money

About 40,000 spectators were disappointed as rain played spoilsport and the fifth and final T20 international cricket match between South Africa and India at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, was abandoned last week. Batting first, India had played for only 3.3 overs. B. Shreepathy Rao, life member, KSCA, Bengaluru, has requested BCCI president Sourav Ganguly to take steps to fully refund the ticket money. He argued that "refusing to give back their money is arbitrary, fanciful, unjust, and unkind to the multitude of cricket fans". This is because cricket as a sport and commercial enterprise thrives primarily because of the unstinted patronage of the cricket lovers, he added. All the cricket clubs in the entire world are offering full refunds if the match is abandoned after zero to 10 overs being played and no result is obtained, he contended. Since the India-South Africa match witnessed only 3.3 overs being bowled to the team batting first before being abandoned, it clearly does not constitute a match, he said and sought a refund of the entire amount to all the valid ticket holders.

Free publicity?

Minister for Revenue R. Ashok *(in picture)* claimed that many people, particularly the younger generation, came to know of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) founder K.B. Hedgewar owing to "free publicity" given by the media over the last fortnight. Inclusion of a speech by Hedgewar in

the revised school textbooks has been questioned by political opposition and progressive intellectuals in Karnataka and they have demanded a withdrawal of the books. Mr. Ashok wryly thanked the media for publishing stories on Hedgewar on front pages.

Mr. Ashok, who held a press conference along with three other Ministers belonging to different communities to defend the revised textbooks, said the coverage on Hegdewar in the media "created awareness" about the RSS. Many people, including primary school teachers, were unaware of Hedgewar and his contributions, he claimed. The Opposition too provided "publicity" to the RSS in the past few days by questioning its role in the freedom movement and the government's connivance with the RSS while framing various policies and framing school syllabus.

NAGESH PRABHU

Ramesh Jarkiholi owes financial institutions, govt. ₹819 cr.: Congress

'Senior BJP leaders in State and Centre are hand-in-glove with him'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU/ BELAGAVI

The Congress on Sunday alleged that the former Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi owes financial institutions and the government ₹819 crore and senior BJP leaders in State and Centre were hand-in-glove with him.

"Four members of Mr. Jarkiholi's family are directors of the board in Sowbhagya Lakshmi Sugar Ltd. and a total of ₹578.39 crore has been raised as loan from various financial institutions, including district credit cooperative banks," KPCC spokesperson Lakshman told presspersons here on Sunday. He alleged that the sugar mill also owes farmers dues to a tune of ₹50 crore and Income Tax dues to of ₹156 crore.

Ramesh Jarkiholi

Mr. Lakshman said that BJP legislator and Apex Bank chairman Belli Prakash had issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Jarkiholi to seize his properties as part of loan recovery process in 2019. While the court stayed the recovery proceedings, it asked Mr. Jarkiholi to pay 50% of the loan amount within six months, and that it has not been paid, he alleged. Though the properties of Sowbhagya Lakshmi Sugars are valued around ₹900 crore, they have been undervalued to be around ₹65 crore, he alleged.

He alleged: "Though the company was declared bankrupt in 2019, sugarcane is still being crushed. The State government declared the loan as NPA in 2019. However, the profits of the company are being shared among directors, including Mr. Jarkiholi. What is the Enforcement Directorate doing about it?"

Efforts to reach out to Mr. Jarkiholi for his reaction did not yield results.

'I never seek Muslim votes'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

BJP MLA K.S. Eshwarappa has said he never went to Muslim streets in Shivamogga city to seek their votes and and will never go in future.

He told presspersons in Shivamogga on Sunday that the BJP was not dependent on the Muslim votes to win. "In Shivamogga city, I have never gone to Muslim streets and I will never go," he said. Leaders of the Congress had been criticising the RSS hoping that the Muslims would support the party, he said.

B.L. Shankar elected KCP president for fourth time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Senior Congress leader B.L. Shankar was elected president of the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath (KCP) on Sunday.

A press release said that the team of office-bearers has been elected for a period of three years. The release from the parishath said Mr. Shankar has been elected as president for the fourth time.

Bommai to submit interim report on new GST slabs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will be submitting his interim report on the creation of new slabs in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime during the two-day GST Council meeting starting in Chandigarh on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister is leaving for Chandigarh from Bengaluru on Monday evening as per the itinerary released by his office. Government sources said he had been appointed as the head of a group of Ministers while he was Home Minister in the B.S. Yediyurappa government to look into the feasibility of creating new slabs, especially for those products and services where the current slabs are said to be high. "He has chaired over a couple of meetings on the issue and he is set to submit the interim report to the council. The report would be deliberated during the two-day meeting," sources said.

Ex-MoS for Defence demands withdrawal of Agnipath scheme

It will compromise with country's security: Pallam Raju

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Stating that the Congress stood for the security of the nation, the former Union Minister of State for Defence M.M. Pallam Raju on Sunday said the Centre should withdraw the Agnipath scheme for recruitment to the armed forces as it would "compromise" the security of the nation.

M.M. Pallam Raju

The Congress leader told presspersons here on Sunday that since the scheme compromises the fighting capabilities of the armed forces, the Congress demands withdrawal of the scheme.

"The Union government has implemented the scheme on the lines of farm laws without calling for discussion. The scheme was not discussed in Parliament. While the scheme will bring down the preparedness of the armed forces, it will also make youth desist from joining the forces," he added.

Stating that there is a culture of pride among those joining the forces, he said that joining the forces was not employment but a lifetime commitment. "This employment is being rendered into contract employment. This is the biggest insult meted out to the youth. The Centre has pledged the security of the nation to save money. This is because the government is unable to allocate additional budget to defence sector," he said.

The former Union Minister said that the government instead of implementing the scheme directly should have introduced it on a trial basis alternatively. "The Congress condemns violent protests. The youth were angry that their chances of continuing in the armed forces were reduced," he said. He also refused to comment on the chiefs of armed forces defending the scheme but pointed out that retired officers had been laying bare the scheme.

SSLC supplementary exam from today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

SSLC supplementary examination will begin on Monday in 423 centres across the State.

A total of 94,649 candidates, including 63,636 boys and 31,283 girls, have enrolled themselves for this examination. Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases, the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board has made it compulsory to follow the standard Operating Procedures both inside and outside the examination hall. The board has also made it mandatory to instal CCTV cameras in all the examination centre.

The examination will be on till July 4.

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BMRDA
No. 1, Ali Askar Road, Bangalore - 560 052, PH: 080-22263479
No. BMRDA/Accounts Section/32/2021-22 Date: 23.06.2022
"e-Auction for investment of Surplus Funds of BANGALORE METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY has been published in e-procurement portal of GoK. For details visit **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Asst. Metropolitan Commissioner(I/C), Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Bengaluru.

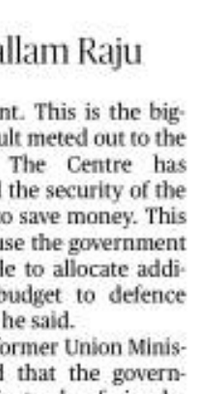
MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, Shivamogga - 577201
Ph: 08182-225544 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No.: SEE/SMG/EE(O)/AEE(O)/22-23/4436-38 Date:10.06.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
MESCOM invites tender for Repairing of failed distribution transformers under buy back(contaminated oil & released winding) basis in following repair centre in Shimoga Circle.

Sl.No.	Division	Repair Centre	Sl.No.	Division	Repair Centre
1.	Shivamogga	Shimoga(Call-2)	4.	Sagar	Sagar
2.	Shivamogga	Thirthahalli	5.	Shikaripura	Shikaripura
3.	Bhadravathi	Bhadravathi			

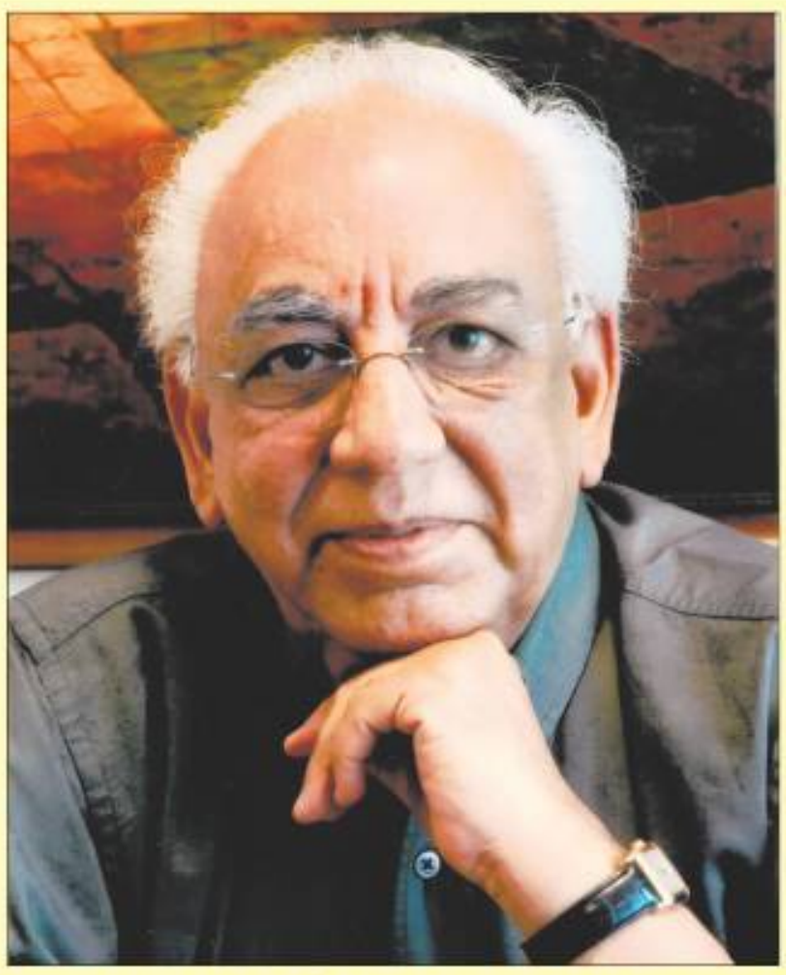
The interested eligible bidders may log on to website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after **28.06.2022.**
Sd/- Superinteding Engineer (Elecl), O&M Circle Shimoga
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Dr. T J Jaisankar, MD,
Professor of Dermatology at JIPMER Puducherry
Passed away on 22 June 2022.
Beloved son of late TS Jayakar, IRS and Sarojini Jayakar.
Brother of Jayashree Mohanka and Lekha Nayar, brother-in-law of late Lalit Mohanka and Vijay Nayar.
Uncle of Anant and Shantanu.
His body was donated to the department of Anatomy, JIPMER, as per his wishes.
Phone 044 26450709



Dr. V. KRISHNAMURTHY

Former Chairman BHEL, Maruti Udyog, SAIL and Secretary, Heavy Industries, Govt of India 1925 – 2022

With deep sorrow we mourn the demise of our beloved Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather and Mentor on 26/06/2022

He will lay in rest at his residence Centralis Apartments, ABM Avenue,

Visitors may pay their respects from 7.30 A.M. on 27/06/2022

The last rites will begin at 3.30 PM at his residence and cremation at Besant Nagar Crematorium at 4.15 PM

Sandy and Lakshmi Chandra, Jayakar Krishnamurthy and Marcia Stanton
Rekha Raghunathan, Meenakshi Jayakar
Hari, Vedha, Maya, Lavanya, Peter, Adithya, Shrutika,
Tara, Tommy, Mara, Ian
Adithi, Anuradha, Maya, Gus
Employees and Staff of UCAL, National College,
Rajam Krishnamurthy Public School

Contact Website : www.drvk.in

Vijay Babu

AMMA not to act against actor now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) has said that any action against actor and film producer Vijay Babu will be taken in keeping with court verdict.

Vijay Babu is an accused in a rape case filed by an actor. He has also been accused of revealing the name of the survivor. He is now out on bail

The decision by the actors' body was announced after its 28th general body meeting. Actors Mohanlal, Siddique, Shwetha Menon, Manianpilla Raju, Jayasoorya and Edavela Babu were among those who addressed a press conference after the AMMA general body meeting.

Vijay Babu had stepped down from the executive committee of AMMA, but he attended the general body meeting held here on Sunday. "We will act in accordance with the court order," said AMMA spokesman Edavela Babu.

They also denied reports that actor Shammi Thilakan had been expelled from AMMA. The actor had allegedly leaked images of the AMMA meeting and had been asked to submit an explanation.

Though he had not given any explanation on the issue despite three notices, another opportunity would be given to him before any action, they said.

YSRCP raises margin in Atmakur seat

Ex MLA's brother, Mekapati Vikram Reddy, wins bypoll by 82,742 votes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE

Riding on the crest of a sympathy wave, YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) candidate Mekapati Vikram Reddy emerged victorious in the byelection to the Atmakur Assembly constituency in SPSR Nellore district by a margin of 82,742 votes, as the counting of votes polled on Thursday was taken up on Sunday.

The YSRCP candidate, brother of former MLA and State Industries and Information Technology Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy, whose untimely death necessitated the bypoll, polled 1,02,074 votes, an increase in the victory margin by over 60,000 when compared to 2019.

BJP, others lose deposit

His nearest Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rival G. Bharat Kumar Yadav, who secured 19,332 votes, lost his security deposit as also the 12 other candidates who were in the fray.

In the first round itself, Mr. Vikram established a comfortable lead of over 5,000 votes and there was no looking back from then on as he improved the lead in each of the next 19 rounds.

But for the Bahujan Samaj Party candidate who polled 4,897 votes, all other candidates got less than the NOTA (None of the Above) count of 4,179 votes in the bypoll.

Big win: Mekapati Vikram Reddy taking the election certificate from the Returning Officer on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The bypoll verdict is a setback to the BJP, which has been aiming to emerge as an alternative to the YSRCP in 2024 as the drubbing came after the defeat in the Tirupati Lok Sabha and Badvel Assembly byelections.

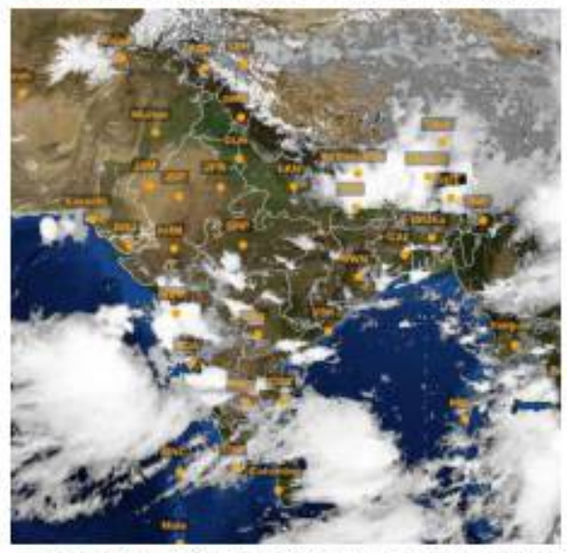
Two-time MLA Goutham Reddy had won the seat by a margin of over 22,000 votes in 2019 and more than 31,000 votes in 2014.

Welcoming people's verdict, A.P Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said in a tweet, "In support of the good done by the government, as a tribute to Goutham... thank you by name to every brother, every sister, every friend, every grandmother, every grandfather... who blessed Vikram with a huge majority of 83,000 votes in Atmakur."

Emerging out of the counting hall after getting the election certificate, Mr. Vikram said the welfare schemes implemented by the YSRCP government on a scale never seen before ensured his victory in the bypoll. He would work to realise the unfulfilled welfare and development initiatives of his brother in Atmakur, he promised.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over Konkan, Goa and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	33.6	26.3	Kozhikode	10.0	28.8	24.2
Ahmedabad	–	41.4	30.0	Kurnool	–	34.2	26.4
Aizawl	7.3	26.4	18.9	Lucknow	–	38.6	30.1
Allahabad	–	37.9	28.4	Madurai	–	35.5	26.1
Bengaluru	3.1	26.9	20.5	Mangaluru	11.1	29.4	24.0
Bhopal	–	37.1	28.0	Mumbai	–	32.0	26.0
Bhubaneswar	–	32.6	26.0	Mysuru	–	30.0	21.0
Chandigarh	–	39.9	28.5	New Delhi	–	41.0	26.0
Chennai	–	36.0	28.0	Patna	–	36.6	27.6
Coimbatore	0.2	27.2	22.7	Port Blair	23.0	29.5	24.4
Dehradun	–	36.3	26.2	Puducherry	–	32.8	–
Gangtok	2.0	26.0	19.7	Pune	–	32.5	24.0
Goa	49.0	30.0	23.2	Raipur	–	33.0	26.2
Guwahati	–	35.0	26.8	Ranchi	–	32.0	23.0
Hubballi	–	–	–	Shillong	0.2	26.1	18.4
Hyderabad	1.0	32.8	22.8	Shimla	–	30.3	22.6
Imphal	11.0	30.2	21.8	Srinagar	–	30.6	16.7
Jaipur	–	40.3	30.7	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.6	25.1
Kochi	31.0	27.8	24.4	Tiruchi	–	33.3	29.5
Kohima	10.0	24.7	15.6	Vijayawada	–	33.6	26.7
Kolkata	9.0	32.0	26.6	Visakhapatnam	15.0	29.2	24.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	76	64	65	105	159	
Bengaluru	7	18	31	29	103	
Chennai	18	21	78	19	48	
Delhi	12	57	22	230	177	
Hyderabad	20	27	85	28	41	
Kolkata	5	39	10	33	35	
Lucknow	13	56	45	99	110	
Mumbai	–	16	181	20	23	
Pune	126	34	112	53	44	
Visakhapatnam	15	51	24	84	98	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ludhiana, Punjab recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 240 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

V. Krishnamurthy passes away

The former Chairman of BHEL had earned the reputation of a 'turnaround man'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

V. Krishnamurthy, former Chairman of BHEL, Maruti Udyog and SAIL and former Secretary of Industries, Government of India, died from age-related ailments on Sunday

He was 97 and is survived by two sons, Chandra and Jayakar, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Krishnamurthy had earned the reputation of a "turnaround man" and fostered some of the biggest success stories of India's public sector.

Illustrious career

Born in Karuveli, Tamil Nadu, he started his illustrious career as a technician on the airfields during the Second World War before studying for a diploma in electrical

V. Krishnamurthy

engineering, following which he rose up the ranks of the Madras Electricity Board.

By 1954, he gained recognition from Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and was appointed to the Planning Commission in charge of power projects. Later at the BHEL, he helped save the company from its imminent disintegration.

As founding Chairman of Maruti, he ushered in the modern era of India's automobile industry, permanently altering the automotive landscape with the introduction of the Maruti 800.

He then went on to turn around SAIL from a failing company, shaking up the entire organisation into an industry leader.

Krishnamurthy, who received the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awards and Japan's Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, also served as Chairman of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council from 2004 to 2014, in the rank of Cabinet Minister.

He spent his final years in Chennai, supporting family company UCAL Fuel Systems in an advisory role.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh condoled his death. "A true legend among public sector managers, a man who built BHEL, turned around SAIL and launched Maruti, is no more. V. Krishnamurthy had a glorious innings but missed his century by just three years. He'll remain an important part of Indian economic history, he said in a tweet.

TVS Motor Company Chairman Emeritus Venu Srinivasan in a statement described Krishnamurthy as one of the tallest leaders in Indian industry and said his contribution to the growth of India was immeasurable.

"Dr. V. Krishnamurthy was my mentor right from the time I started work and right through my entire career. He had an important role to play in helping me build TVS Motor company," he recalled.

'Sangh trying to divide communities'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan has accused the Sangh Parivar forces of attempting to drive a wedge between Christian and Muslim communities to splinter minority vote and destroy their cohesion against the BJP's 'divisive agenda.'

The CPI(M) Wayanad district committee would probe the attack by SFI activists on the regional office of Rahul Gandhi. However, he cautioned the police against overwhelmingly targetting SFI activists at the behest of the local Congress leaders.

Mr. Balakrishnan said the Congress had not denounced the Youth Congress bid on Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's life on board an aircraft.

Tension in TS town over TRS leaders' 'challenge'

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Tension prevailed in Kollapur town in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district on Sunday as two leaders belonging to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) prepared for a public face-off over "who did what for the Assembly constituency".

The police had denied permission for the event.

Both former Kollapur MLA Jupalli Krishna Rao and present legislator Beeram Harshavardhan Reddy had mobilised their own cadres for the debate near the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue in the morning. In the wake of the tense situation, both leaders were placed under house arrest since morning. Authorities imposed Section 144 of the Cr.PC banning gatherings in the town.

The town was turned into a fortress, several routes were barricaded and a large police force guarded the leaders' residences.

However, things changed fast when supporters of Mr. Reddy began to move towards Mr. Rao's residence. When Mr. Reddy came out of his house with his supporters, the police detained him and took him in their vehicle. Many of his supporters who obstructed the police vehicle were also taken away.

The town tense situation continued to remain as individual leaders made fresh statements.

Meanwhile, five-time legislator Mr. Rao said the allegations being made by Mr. Reddy against him were baseless. He said he was still ready for the face-off to disprove the "politically motivated claims."

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KNNL No.2 division, Oddarahatti Camp, State:Karnataka
Ph No: 08533-271361

No.EE/KNNL/CD-2/TS/Man power/2022-23/497 Date:23 -06-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through e-procurement system)

Tender in Electronic mode on Percentage BASIS are invited on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL ,No.2 Canal Division Odderahatti Camp, Koppal District., in Two Cover system (Cover I and Cover II) , under H/A 2701 Man Power (Sub Division wise Four Works) under This Division 1) Supply of Man power to No.2 T.R.Sub Division Agalkera Work Amount Put Tender **Rs.130.59** Lakhs, EMD **Rs.1.31 Lakhs** 2) Supply of Man power to No.1 Canal Sub Division Odderahatti Camp Work Amount Put Tender **Rs.190.33** Lakhs EMD **Rs.1.91** Lakhs 3) Supply of Man power to D-31 Canal Sub Division Karatagi Work Amount Put Tender **Rs.162.05** Lakhs, EMD **Rs.1.63** Lakhs 4) Supply of Man power to No.2 Canal Sub Division Karatagi Work Amount Put Tender **Rs.152.51** Lakhs EMD **Rs.1.53** Lakhs, from the registered in the Department of Labour. Pre bid meeting on **27-06-2022** at CE KNNL Irrigation central zone Munirabad. Last date for submission of tender documents upto **01-07-2022** up to **4.30 PM,** from web site (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) & Date of Opening Technical Bid (Cover-I) :**02- 07-2022 at 4.40** PM &Financial Bid (Cover-II) on **04-07-2022** at **11.00** AM or after obtaining approval to technical bid. The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. For more information at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone **No-08533-271361.**

Sd/-Executive Engineer KNNL
No.2 Canal Division Odderahatti

DIPRKOPPAL/185/2022-23/DESPHANDEPUBLICITY

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: 903/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/EEE/T-1, T-2 & T-3/22-23/Cys-06 Date: 24.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works.

1. Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/903/SEE/HBL/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/220kV SRS,** for Renovation and Modernization of 33kV line bays at 220kV SRS, KPTCL, Hubballi.

2. Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/EE/AEE-1/2022-23/CHURCHIHAL,** for Replacement of 02 No's of existing towers by D+3 towers at location No: 81 & 82 for heightening of Power Conductor of 220kV Gadag-Doni line 1 & 2 between location No: 81 & 82 to provide clearance to Government Higher Primary School, Churchihal, in TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Gadag on TTK Basis.

3. Bid Enquiry No. : **KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/T-2/22-23/DG,** for Conducting detailed Survey of 220kV and 110kV Lines for the work of establishing 2x100MVA, 220/110kV Receiving Station at Divagi in Kumta Taluk, Uttar Kannada District.

4. Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/2021-22/IND2079/CALL-2,** for Supply of 32 Nos. of 50 Kgs Sulphur Hexa-Flouride (SF-6) Gas Cylinders.

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the **'e-procurement'** mode can be obtained by logging onto e-procurement's website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 27.06.2022.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL,
Karwar Road, Vidyuthnagar, Hubballi.

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/MD/ETP/2022-23 Date: 24.06.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (RETENDER)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd. Bangalore invites tenders from the eligible contractors through E-procurement for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested Contractors/ Firms/ who have executed similar kind of works may participate in the short term retender as indicated below, by logging on to website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com, hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-22371090, 080-22340060, 080-22340948, 080 46010000, 080 68948777

Sl No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs)	Period of Contract
1	Biannual Contract For Providing Manpower For Operation And Maintenance Of 1700 KLPD Capacity Effluent Treatment Plant At Mother Dairy At Yelahanka, Bengaluru District.	1 Job	1,70,000/-	24 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated 27.06.2022 to 06-07-2022 up to 4-00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 06-07-2022 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 08-07-2022 at 11.30 am.

The interested & reputed applicants may participate in the tender by logging on to website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in, Henceforth changes/modification in the tender, it will be uploaded in the e-procurement only.

For Karnataka Co-Opp. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/-
Director [Engineering-1]

ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎಫ್ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ಕಮಾಮ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಡಾ.ಎಂ.ಹೆಚ್ ಮರಿಗೌಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 560 029
ಫೋನ್ 080-25536625 / 25536789 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 080-25536105

IFTNO. ಕಾಮಾ/ಆಫ/ಮೆಗಾ ಡೇರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ – ಹಾಮೂಲ್/2ನೇ ಹಂತದ – ಸಿಎಲ್ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು/01537/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.06.2022

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹಾಸನ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕಹಾಮ ಪಟಿಯಿಂದ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಮೆಗಾ ಡೇರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಮೊದಲ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯು ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ 2ನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹಾಲು ಮಹಾ ಮಂಡಳಿಯು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ/ಸಿ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ/ಎಂ.ಇ.ಎಸ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖೇನ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (Technical and Financial) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://epoc.karantaka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

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ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೆಹ್ಯೂಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.06.2022 ರಿಂದ 05.10.2022 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.10.2022 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು (Cover-1) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.10.2022 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಪರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ / ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ
ಸಹಿ/-
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಆಡಳಿತರ-1)

TUNGABHADRA BOARD :: TB DAM
e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notice IFB Nos.53/2022-23 to 74/2022-23 Dt.24.06.2022

Tender for total 22 Nos. of Works under various categories are invited in respect of LLC Division, Ballari and HW & HLC Division, TB Dam through `e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time	27.06.2022at 12.00 PM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time	04.07.2022 at 3.00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time	04.07.2022 at 5.30 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage (For IFB Nos.53, 54, 55 & 70)	04.07.2022 at 6.00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage (For IFB Nos.56 to 69 & 71 to 74):	04.07.2022 at 6.00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage (For IFB Nos.53, 54, 55 & 70)	05.07.2022 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen @ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Ph: 08394 - 259114
Fax 08394 - 259167

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
"Ugarana Bhavan", No 43, Primrose Road, Bengaluru-560025.
Tel: 080-29533679 Fax:080-296533673
E-mail : mdkswc2018@gmail.com Website: www.kswc.in

No:KSWC/ADM/TENDER/2022-23/1025 Date:24.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-tenders are invited from the eligible Outsourcing Manpower Agencies, Through E-procurement Portal, to Supply The Necessary Manpower in Three Packages for the KSWC Regional Office as well as to the Warehouses, located at Centers across the State.

Calendar of events : Date of opening the tenders :**28.06.2022,** The last date for submission of tenders:**27.07.2022, upto 4.00 P.M.,** Date of opening the Technical bid :**28.07.2022, at 4.00 P.M.,** Date of opening the Financial bid :**05.08.2022, at 4.00 P.M.**

For more details, the tenderer may refer to e-procurement website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office helpline 080-46010000/68948777.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that our client proposes to purchase the below described Schedule Property from its owner **SRI.DHRUVA K**, aged about 32 years, S/o Sri.N.S.Krishnappa, residing at no.2291, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Near Coffee day, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560 104.

Any person (s)/institutions/ banks having any manner of right or claim over the Schedule Property may lodge their objections or claims in writing with all supporting documentary evidence with regard to such claims with the undersigned within 10 (Ten) days hereof, failing which, our client will proceed to complete the transaction. Any objections/ claims received thereafter will not be entertained /binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of vacant site no.1607/12, PID No.4312051305 in the layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority situated at Block-V, Sir.M.Visveshwaraiah Layout, Bangalore admeasuring **East to West :** 12 Mtrs., **North to South :** 9 Mtrs., in all measuring 108 Sq. Mtrs., and bounded as follows : On the

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For C.S.Vishwanath & Co.,Nos.519 & 520, III Floor, Prabhat Complex, K.G Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Ph-41247862, 41224958, 41224597

Bangalore Date : 25.06.2022

Keep up the pressure

India must seek the extradition of Sajid Mir for his role in the Mumbai attacks

Reports in Pakistan's newspapers, that a Pakistani court has convicted Sajid Majeed Mir, one of the men who planned the Mumbai 26/11 attacks, on terror financing charges, is welcome proof that the search for each of the masterminds must never be given up on. In the case of Mir, Pakistan's security agencies had gone so far as to falsely declare him "dead". He was reportedly sentenced to more than 15 years in jail and is serving his term in a Lahore jail. Mir, the LeT's former deputy chief of "international operations", has been wanted for his role in recruitment for the 26/11 attacks, being the handler for David Headley, who carried out the reconnaissance for the LeT during several visits to India, and for being in the Karachi "control room" during the Mumbai siege. Headley named Mir in his deposition to a U.S. court, after he was given a "plea bargain" by the U.S. government, as well as in depositions via video link for the 26/11 trial in India. Mir is also wanted for LeT conspiracies to attack a Danish newspaper accused of publishing blasphemous cartoons and bomb a nuclear installation in Australia. He was also convicted by a French court for recruiting LeT operatives, and is believed to have also recruited terror-volunteers in the "Virginia Paintball Jihad" case in the U.S. The timing of Mir's conviction appears to be linked to the final stages of Pakistan's grey listing at the FATF this June, that voted to allow on-site visits in Pakistan with a view to delisting it in the next few months. While Mir is not actually on the UN Security Council's 1267 list of terror-designated individuals that the FATF is mandated to pursue, the West has frequently brought his name up at FATF proceedings in demanding that Pakistan successfully convict leaders of terrorist groups.

If Mir is in fact behind bars, New Delhi must move quickly to demand his extradition to stand for trial in India. Admittedly, this is a virtually impossible task, given the poor state of bilateral ties. New Delhi must also rectify the error in not pursuing Mir's addition to the UNSC list thus far, and launch a concerted international effort for Mir to be prosecuted for the number of terror attacks he has been involved in – not just for terror financing. As with Hafiz Saeed, Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi and other LeT members, it is necessary to keep the spotlight on Mir, given the predilection of Pakistan's legal authorities for reversing convictions and reducing the sentencing of terrorists once the heat from international agencies reduces. This will be particularly important, especially as Pakistan is expected to receive a full reprieve at the FATF in October, and it must be made clear that the Government will continue to pursue the legal process against each of the men behind the Mumbai attacks, until they are brought to justice.

Regressive, inhumane

By removing constitutional right to abortion, U.S. Supreme Court is on wrong side of liberty

When a democracy rolls back a constitutional right that has been in place for almost half a century, it must consider itself in deep peril. The U.S. stands at that fraught juncture now, after its Supreme Court, in a 6-3 majority, overturned the 1973 ruling in *Roe vs Wade*, and took away the constitutional right to abortion. In one blow, on June 24, it withdrew from women anywhere in the country their right to reproductive and bodily autonomy. With *Roe*, as well as the 1992 decision in *Planned Parenthood vs Casey* that upheld *Roe*, gone, the court returned "the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives". States can now decide whether to ban abortion, and at what stage in a pregnancy and under what circumstances. The fight over abortion has been the U.S.'s most passionately waged ideological battle. With a focus that denies any space for compassion or respect for liberty, conservatives have prioritised the task of having *Roe* overturned for decades. With the court now having attained a conservative supermajority, the decision had been imminent – some Republican-ruled States have started banning abortion, with trigger laws in place in anticipation of such a judgment. Other Red States will follow.

This Supreme Court decision, *Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization*, has in effect divided the U.S. territorially – States where women have the right to abortion, and those where they do not. Where they do not, women with unplanned or unwanted pregnancies, including possibly in some jurisdictions those that endanger the mother's life or are a result of rape or incest, may have no option but to seek medical assistance in other States. This needs resources and support structures, and many women will be left with no option other than clandestine, unsafe abortions nearer home. Chillingly, there is fear that miscarriages could be subject to criminal investigations. On a positive side, major U.S. companies and some States (New York) have started offering financial support to employees and help for out-of-state abortion seekers who seek medical interventions in abortion-supporting States. This will, however, make already-bitter partisan polarisation worse. It must also alarm Americans that the logic of *Dobbs* – that abortion is not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution and is not covered by the landmark 14th Amendment of 1868 that safeguards liberty – has opened the process for other rights to be taken away. For now, President Joe Biden and his Democratic Party have vowed to put *Roe* on the ballot in November's mid-term elections. But the way the U.S. electoral system stacks up the numbers in the Senate against their efforts to break the filibuster, the effort to protect women will likely be carried out incrementally: legal challenges at multiple levels, support to women in Red States, and persuasive political campaigns at the grassroots.

Rewriting 'old history' for a New India

The proposed changes to history textbooks specifically target certain areas of India's past, causing an ideological shift

ANUBHUTI MAURYA

Recent investigative reports (*The Indian Express*, June 19-22, 2022) bring to light proposals for deletions and changes to school textbooks across the board. The aim, purportedly, is to reduce the load on school students who have suffered a loss of learning due to extended shutdowns during the novel coronavirus pandemic. However, the changes made in the history textbooks specifically target certain areas of India's past and will result in an ideological shift in history teaching at the school level.

Curricular changes

The Government is currently undertaking a series of curricular changes. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports recently tabled its Report on the Reforms in Content and Design of School Text books (November 30, 2021). The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is already in the process of formulating the new National Curricular Framework, which will direct the syllabi of central and State educational boards. At the heart of this process is the rewriting of school textbooks. The Report of the Parliamentary Committee notes right at the beginning that, 'School Textbooks, in our educational system, remain the easiest way *of sharing a single narrative across millions of students* through the multitude of diversity that defines our country'.

In the tabled report, the discussions in the NCERT and the public statements by members of the ruling establishment, there is an overwhelming emphasis on the need to rewrite history textbooks, to remove 'un-historical facts and distortions about national heroes'. This is not surprising in itself, since history is at the heart of the political discourse today. The majoritarian political rhetoric rides on the vilification of the Muslims of India as 'outsiders' and 'invaders'. The real story of India, it argues, lies in the ancient period, which is imagined as the glorious Hindu past. Violence – through invasions, battles and bloodshed – is seen as the prime medium of change. The victorious, masculine hero is celebrated, and defeat is seen as an ignominious emasculation. This history focuses on heroes and kings, rulers and armies, even though the craft of history writing has long moved beyond this kind of understanding. However, the suggested changes look to enshrine this as the dominant perspective in history textbooks.

Points of concern

This raises two points of concern:

One, this is a limited and unimaginative approach to school education in general and history education in particular. The discussions, especially in the tabled report suggest that the use of audio-visual resources and digital content through QR codes would make school textbooks interesting for students. Such changes are

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welcome. But these are pedagogic techniques, carriers of content. It is when the students are challenged in the realm of ideas that education becomes more engaging and a meaningful vehicle of change.

Two, this narrative makes a demand upon students to suspend critical thinking about the world around them and reduces the past to statist and static in their imagination. For example, there is a proposal to delete the description of some of the practices of Akbar's court. These include the translation of Sanskrit texts such as the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharata* and the *Rajatarangini* into Persian, Akbar's engagement with diverse social and religious practices in the empire, and a section on the emergence of composite architectural traditions.

An example

Akbar's armies built a grand empire, stretching from Kashmir to the Deccan, from Kabul to Bengal. His court saw an assemblage of administrators, military commanders, the learned and the gifted from regions across India, and from central and west Asia. The administrative culture of the empire and its language of politics emerged out of the engagements and dissensions in the courtly space.

The traditions of the Mughal court influenced the political culture of kingdoms across the subcontinent. If you have ever wondered about the mélange that is our modern Indian languages, or about the cusped arches on houses and temples in villages and small towns, the answer is not that the Mughal armies marched through these areas. Different traditions, courtly and popular, interacted to produce new political, social and cultural forms. These populate our everyday practices, rituals and traditions, languages and food, artistic sensibilities and so on. However, this sense of history – as fluid, fractious and dynamic – is lost when Akbar is presented only as an emperor who won battles.

Akbar is just one example. The proposed changes in textbooks censor out the diversity in our past, and reduce the space for exploring other histories, like that of inequality – whether of caste or gender, or stories of challenges to hegemonic orders. By posing the history of India as a glory tale, it curtails the possibilities of asking questions of it.

The larger narrative

The proposed changes to the history textbooks fit within the larger narrative of this government. In a recent speech at the Delhi University, the Home Minister declared that since 2014, a 'New India' is being crafted. This New India needs a new history. However, this new history makes villains of some communities and privileges a fragmented historical narrative which is subject to the demands of community sentiments.

In 1947, when India was emerging from the shadows of colonialism, Indian historians were faced with the question of their role in this nation in the making. In his Presidential address to the Indian History Congress in December 1947, four months after Independence and in midst of the events of Partition, Mohammad Habib asked the historians of the newly independent India to write histories which would create a 'national community', one which rose above all differences of community and caste, where citizens were to be subject to national laws. His address was both poignant and prophetic.

Habib's words ring out strongly today, when as citizens we see the very idea of the Indian nation being redefined, its Constitution challenged. They ring out even more strongly as history becomes the main battleground where this new idea of the nation is being manufactured, literally by the sword and the bulldozer, through blood and tears.

The stories of India's past are complex and diverse. It is unjust to fit it into simple accounts of golden and dark ages, of great and bad men, of remembered and imagined hurts. The proposed rewriting of the history textbook seeks to raise future generations of Indians on ahistorical ideas and a unity premised on falsehoods.

Anubhuti Maurya teaches history at the Department of History and Archaeology, Shiv Nadar University

Making sense of New Delhi's Taliban rapprochement

As a 'civilisational state' and inspiring global power, India cannot behave as a transactional, opportunistic salesman

DAVOOD MORADIAN

The Pakistan-led coalition's success and luck in toppling a United States-supported constitutional order in Afghanistan has brought to surface unexpected developments. While a growing number of the Taliban's western and regional lobbyists are distancing themselves from their pyrrhic victory, India pulled a rabbit out of its diplomatic hat by sending a senior diplomatic delegation to the Taliban-occupied Kabul. The visit was the culmination of Delhi's months of quiet diplomacy and signalling. Just hours after the Taliban's takeover, in 2021, India was the first country to immediately ban all Afghans travelling to India, including students and patients with a valid Indian visa. In a significant but not widely-covered decision, India chose to abstain from the UN Security Council's calling on the Taliban to open girl schools and continues to remain silent about a worsening situation in Afghanistan.

India's apparent reorientation can be described and understood as an example of realpolitik, supremacy of national interest and a superficiality of "values" and "sentiments" in the Hobbesian world of international politics. India's neutral stance on Russia's entanglement in Ukraine reveals the Indian version of "First India" foreign policy.

However, Delhi's flirtation with the Taliban raises a number of pertinent questions: What are India's key strategic interests in Afghanistan? How can a potential India-Taliban rapprochement advance such interests? Does the Taliban have the intent and/or capacity to deliver on their promise and vice versa? How would India engage with the anti-Taliban constituencies? How will India's aspiration to become a global power be served by aligning with an unacceptable regime such as the Taliban?

AFP

India as alliance's target

Afghanistan is a security-centric concern, in particular, the nexus of Islamic militancy, illicit drugs and proxy warfare. India is a primary target for this alliance. The Taliban's victory realised two important ideological and strategic goals of militant Islamists and their Pakistani patron: establishing a "pure Islamic Government" in the Heart of Asia and securing Pakistan's "Strategic Depth". The two concepts are necessary pre-conditions for attaining another long-held vision of Islamists, Ghazwa-e-Hind.

There are both historical precedents and existing infrastructure in support of the nexus of religious zealots, tribal warriors and imperial ambitions. Mahmud Ghaznavi was the first to recruit tribal warriors from today's Afghanistan/Pakistan border region to attack and plunder India more than 1,000 years ago. The British applied a similar strategy in undermining and eventually toppling Afghanistan's progressive King Amanullah Khan in the early 20th century. In its first war against India in 1948, Pakistan mobilised a tribal army to attack India.

The central pillar of the West's anti-Soviet strategy in Afghanistan was to fund and support the Mujahideen via a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)-led operation, named "Operation Cyclone". Pakistan's geo-strategic vision for Afghanistan is to create a "Greater Waziristan", to be ruled by an isolated, ruthless and dogmatic Taliban's reign, funded by United Nations/western humanitarian assistance. In return, Greater Waziristan" would become a major centre for producing, training and sheltering different brands of "tribal/Islamist warriors" for different markets. Afghanistan's over 6,000 religious madrassas will be further incorporated into Pakistan's plus 40,000 madrassas to create the world's largest network of militancy-inspired educational institutions.

Wishful thinking

New Delhi also seems hopeful of capitalising on the personal grudge some Taliban commanders have against Pakistan and hence its wishful thinking to create an India-friendly faction within the Taliban. Pakistan's military-intelligence establishment has shown its ruthless and efficient way in dealing with dissident, "out-of-control" and "outdated" proxies. The fate of Pakistani politicians such as Benazir Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan, or Pakistan's Afghan proxies such as Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and former Taliban supreme leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour showed Pakistan's zealous determination to maintain its monopoly on its proxies. India's ruling party's anti-Muslim inclinations have also provided additional ammunition to the advocates of "Ghazwa-e-Hind".

The facts on the ground are often cited to justify a realistic foreign policy; a justification by those who advocate engagement with the Taliban. There are also other facts that should be taken into account. The U.S.'s peace agreement with the Taliban ended the U.S.'s half-hearted and confused hostility with the Taliban. It did not however terminate other drivers of the Afghan conflict. The following social media trends among Afghan users reveal the full picture of the sorrow conflict: SanctionPakistan; LetAfghanGirlsLearn; StopHazaraGenocide; StopTajikGenocide; PartitionAfghanistan. The Taliban have excluded all non-Taliban Pashtuns from public space as is shown by the house detention of former President Hamid Karzai; there are also systematic violations of the human rights of the non-Pashtun communities which amount to crime against humanity, and ethnic cleansing which borders on genocide. For the first time, the partition of the country into Pashtun-dominated and Farsiwan-dominated polities has, sadly, become political discourse among the Farsiwan constituencies.

Fallacy of 'India First'

An "India First" policy seems to drive Delhi's Taliban rapprochement. If so, it will destroy a central pillar of India's foreign and security policy, the dismantling of the region's "terrorist infrastructure". The Taliban's victory is the best product of this infrastructure. It would defy logic to be simultaneously critical of a production system while embracing its premium product. India as a "civilizational state" and an inspiring global power cannot behave as a bandwagoning, transactional, opportunistic salesman.

Notwithstanding India's strategic hesitancy and caution during the last two decades in Afghanistan, it attained two important benchmarks of becoming an ideational and trustworthy partner. Many Afghans looked at India as an example of a fellow developing nation that overcame the many challenges of building and sustaining a functioning democratic polity. More importantly, India was seen as a sincere friend of Afghanistan, unlike many double-faced actors. Even for an "interest"-based foreign policy, it is counterproductive to lose the trust and goodwill of Afghans toward India by embracing a policy that is doomed to failure on multiple grounds.

Since August 15, 2021, Afghanistan has descended from a Pax Americana experiment to a "Pax Pakistana" ambition. The prospects for peace and stability in Afghanistan under a Pax Pakistana lordship are not feasible as Pakistan itself is overwhelmed by multiple internal and external challenges. Afghanistan needs a strong UN mandate, including a UN-led political transition process supported by a UN peace keeping/making force. India can lend its support to such endeavours which are worthy of its character, ambition and Afghanistan's needs.

Davood Moradian is Director of the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS). He has previously worked in the Office of President Hamid Karzai and Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Chief Policy Adviser. He has taught in the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) and the American University of Afghanistan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

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Maharashtra politics

Maharashtra is witnessing the usual game politicians play – that of large-scale defections, which is an offshoot of personal ambition, which disrespects and tears to shreds the will of the people that is so sacrosanct in a democracy (Page 1, "Ban orders in Mumbai as MLAs' offices attacked", June 26). And, it is now spilling on to the streets. Whatever might be the reason for the crisis, the verdict of the people which handed over governance to the MVA Alliance must be respected and honoured. If the drama is a manifestation of the "national party" taking revenge on the Sena, its once all-weather ally, for deserting the Hindutva bandwagon, the writing on the wall for India's future is clear: it looks rather bleak, as an unbridled ideology has only meant communal unrest and giant retrograde steps for India, nationally and internationally. One hopes that the crisis in Maharashtra is doused soon by well-meaning politicians – if there is anyone who still exists in that category – and the voters' will and democracy are redeemed.

Dr. George Jacob,
Kochi

Verdict and after

Without going into the merits of the case attributed to activist Teesta Setalvad and former Indian Police Service officer and whistle-blower R.B. Sreekumar, one cannot help observing what is perceived to be the revengeful and ugly haste with which an FIR was filed against them accusing of criminal conspiracy and other offences under the IPC (Page 1, "Teesta, former IPS officer detained", June 26). The development is a not so-veiled a threat to those who risk pointing an accusing finger at the powers that be.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

■ The detention and arrest are most unfortunate and disturbing so soon after the Supreme Court's verdict. Tragic incidents did happen in Gujarat. Hundreds were killed and injured. Many of those affected have yet to process what happened to them and the direction of their lives. Has the truth about what actually happened in Gujarat been revealed?

Hemachandra Basappa,
Bengaluru

■ The Supreme Court's dismissal of the 'larger conspiracy' angle in the 2002 Gujarat riots has brought down the curtain on the much-protracted, yet closely-followed case. Still it cannot be said that the verdict has entirely dispelled lingering doubts about the role of those who were cleared by the SIT. The Gujarat riots constituted a turning point in the political careers of some political figures, even multiplying their political fortunes. But these personalities ought not to forget the point that former leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee emphasised: the need to observe 'raj dharma'. Acting against those who sought justice for the riot victims might have a chilling effect on the defenders of human rights and leave the victims with no one to take up the cudgels on their behalf. Sadly, the judiciary did not empathise with Zakia Jafri and give her a sense of closure.

G. David Milton,
Marathancode, Tamil Nadu

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the 'Data Point' story titled "The problems plaguing thermal power generators" (June 24, 2022), the power demand figures in the opening paragraph should have read "211 *GW*" and "200 *GW*" instead of 211 *MW* and 200 *MW*.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

Bringing MSMEs into global value chains

These businesses are the ones that have faced the harshest of environments over the last few years

RENÉ VAN BERKEL, DAGMAR WALTER & SHOMBI SHARP

Though the growth and achievements of large businesses in India have received much attention, micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSME) actually account for over 99% of businesses. MSMEs are the largest employer in India outside of agriculture, employing over 11.1 crore people, or 45% of all workers. It is no exaggeration to call MSMEs - privately owned enterprise with less than ₹50 crore in investments in plant and machinery and turnover below ₹250 crore - the backbone of the Indian economy.

Every year on June 27, World MSME Day provides us with the opportunity to appreciate their valuable contribution to job creation and sustainable development across the world. Yet, these businesses are the ones that have faced the harshest of environments over the last few years.

The disruption of the pandemic severely impacted MSMEs, especially those in the services sector. Their small size and lack of access to resources meant that many were only beginning to mount a fragile recovery just when renewed war, supply shocks and soaring fuel, food and fertilizer prices presented a host of new threats. And all of this comes against the backdrop of the ongoing climate crisis, the greatest disruption multiplier of all.

At the same time, the potential of India's small businesses is truly immense. India faces a unique moment in history, a potential demographic dividend of tremendous proportions. To leverage this opportunity, India needs to create many jobs, especially for the one million young people entering the labour market every month.

Meeting standards

While some MSMEs operate at the highest industry standards, most do not meet today's standards on productivity, environmental sustainability, and health and safety of workers. This is further exacerbated by the high degree of informality in the sector, with many enterprises unregistered, and both employers and workers are lacking awareness of and commitment to comply with labour and environmental laws. As a result, informal enterprises cannot access formal MSME support and financing nor participate in global value chains that require full compliance with all applicable regulations.

The Government of India has rightly identified the development of the country's MSME ecosystem as a top priority for achieving *Atma Nirbhar Bharat* (self-reliant India). India's ambitious "Make in India" campaign aims to catapult the country up the manufacturing value chain to position itself as a global manufacturing hub. Initiatives such as the production linked incentives (PLI) schemes and the recently launched zero effect zero defect (ZED) certification are helping to promote and boost the sector.

To help accelerate this process, the UN system in India is supporting these and other MSME development initiatives at the local, State and national levels. Agencies such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, IFAD and others are working with MSMEs as they navigate a rapidly changing post-pandemic economic landscape shaped by large-scale transitions, chiefly digitalisation, greening and the reorganisation of value chains.

Firstly, digitalisation concerns the integration of digital technologies, such as big data, artificial intelligence and virtual reality, in business processes, also known as Industry 4.0. With few exceptions, digitalisation into smart manufacturing operations is still in its infancy. Therefore, there is a need for replicable digital solutions adapted for MSMEs, including digital enhancements for machinery and equipment currently in use. Government initiatives such as the Digital Saksham and the interlinking of the Udyam, e-Shram, National Career Service (NCS), and Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portals show the promise of targeted digitalisation schemes.

Environmental impact

Secondly, "greening" reduces the environmental impact of MSME operations and fosters cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship to accelerate the transition to a circular and low carbon economy. Energy efficiency provides a case in point as business and climate benefits go hand in hand. For example, together with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), UNIDO provided energy efficiency advisory services to 695 MSMEs in 23 clusters covering brass, ceramic, dairy, foundry and hand tool sectors. As a result, these MSMEs invested themselves during the cash-strapped COVID period ₹157 crore to save 13,105 tonnes of oil equivalent and ₹81 crore in annual operating costs and preventing 83,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Thirdly, to increase the resilience of supply in response to recent shocks, production locations for global value chains are increasingly shifting and diversifying across countries and regions.

To further leverage this opportunity, UNIDO is spearheading the notion of manufacturing excellence. This means fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation that reduces waste and increases productivity, safety and quality. In one partnership with the Automotive Components Manufacturers Association (ACMA), the participating SME component manufacturers have achieved average reductions of in-house and client rejections of 82% and 73% respectively, eliminated hazardous work conditions, and achieved cumulative annual savings of over ₹4.2 crore.

Job creation

The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is also creating opportunities for self-employment and micro enterprises, with over 7 lakh micro enteprises assisted in becoming economically viable. Similarly, ILO, together with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and corporates, is supporting MSMEs in creating and retaining jobs, with over 150 MSMEs having improved productivity, aligned to international standards and integrated into global supply chains, and the Start and Improve Your Business programme helping over a lakh young people across five States launch enterprises.

A forward-looking mindset centres on policy makers and society at large fully recognising and supporting the central socio-economic role that MSMEs play in India, as across the world. In turn, to fully unlock emerging opportunities in the rapidly changing global value chain ecosystem and maximise the demographic dividend, MSME owners need to further commit to formalising their businesses, investing in improved productivity, compliance and most of all, decent work and jobs for India's aspiring youth. As UN Secretary-General Guterres has urged, "Let us renew our commitment to leverage the full potential of MSMEs, rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and build a more prosperous and just world for all."

René Van Berkel is UNIDO Representative and head of the UNIDO Regional Office in India, Dagmar Walter is Director of ILO India Country Office and Decent Work Support Team for South Asia and Shombi Sharp is the United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, bringing the 26 agencies of Team UN India together for Agenda 2030

How Hanoi and New Delhi are fortifying defence ties

The maritime domain has taken centre stage in talks

HARSH V. PANT & PRATNASHREE BASU

The furtherance of India's Act East Policy, maritime multilateralism, maritime security outreach and the building of stronger networks across the Indo-Pacific are some of the key elements which have made New Delhi and Hanoi natural partners. The two countries recently deepened bilateral cooperation with the singing of the Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030 during the recent visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Vietnam. The Joint Vision Statement is aimed at boosting the scope and scale of the existing defence cooperation between the two nations. Both sides undertook extensive deliberations to expand avenues of effective and practicable collaboration in bilateral defence engagements pertaining to regional and global issues.

In the meeting with his counterpart, Vietnam's Minister of National Defence General Phan Van Giang, the early finalisation of the $500 million Defence Line of Credit extended by India to the latter along with the implementation of existing projects which would complement India's 'Make in India, Make for the world' and Hanoi's defence capabilities were also discussed. The two sides also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Mutual Logistics Support. This is the first agreement of its kind that Hanoi has entered into with any other country and elevates the standing of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) which Hanoi shares with New Delhi since 2016 (along with only Russia and China).

Because of the volume of maritime trade that passes through sea lanes of communication in the Indo-Pacific and potential as well as estimated energy reserves in these waters, maritime cooperation between countries in the region have expanded exponentially. Undoubtedly, for India and Vietnam too, the maritime domain in particular has occupied a central focus. Both countries find convergence in their approaches towards the maintenance of stability and security of the Indo-Pacific which has translated into diplomatic and political support in the context of developments within the region.

The enhanced geostrategic prominence and attendant uncertainties vis-à-vis China's expanding and often abrasive footprints in the Indo-Pacific have resulted in an overall increase in emphasis on cooperative mechanisms and frameworks across the region. Hanoi and New Delhi have not been strangers to these developments and have stepped up bilateral exchanges. Defence partnership between the two countries has been growing steadily following the singing of the Defence Protocol in 2000 and today covers extensive navy-to-navy cooperation spanning the exchange of intelligence, production and logistical support for Vietnam's defence requirements, development of naval facilities such as Nha Trang, defence dialogues, high-level visits and the supply of warships and cruise missiles.

Vietnam has and continues to be one of the most vocal countries with respect to China's periodic transgressions in the South China Sea. In India, Vietnam has found an equally uncompromising partner when it comes to the question of violations of freedom of navigation and threats to sovereign maritime territorial rights as enshrined under international maritime law. Indeed, it is believed that Hanoi used the term Indo-Pacific for the first time in 2018 in its Joint statement with India. New Delhi has supported Vietnam's position in the South China Sea with respect to Beijing's destabilising actions and coercive tactics backing the verdict of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the case brought by Manila in 2016 and reiterating the irrefutability of the UNCLOS. India has also not backed down from continuing ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL)'s oil exploration project in Block 128 (which is within Hanoi's EEZ) despite China's protests. In 2020 China's incursion into Ladakh was quickly followed by the deployment of warships by India to the South China Sea in an instance of asymmetrical warfare and a signalling that India will not stand down. These instances together with the deepening of India's operational outreach in the Indo-Pacific have successfully indicated and cemented its role as a capable, willing and reliable partner.

Despite the fact that the China factor has provided impetus to the solidification of ties, it is also important to consider that mutual cooperation is not driven solely by it. Both countries have expanded areas of collaboration and are supportive of each other's individual and multilateral involvements within the rubric of the Indo-Pacific.

Harsh V. Pant is Vice President, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi and Professor at King's College London. Pratnashree Basu is an Associate Fellow at ORF, Kolkata

STATE OF PLAY

Three's a crowd?

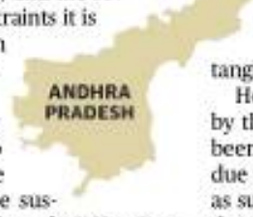
The dispute around Amaravati versus 3 capitals for Andhra rages even after the HC verdict

V. RAGHAVENDRA

The proposed three capitals for Andhra Pradesh continue to be in a limbo due to the protracted litigation in the High Court and the spirited battle being waged outside by thousands of farmers who gave up their fertile lands for the development of Amaravati as a single capital city.

The High Court said on March 3, 2022, that the State should develop Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh, consequent to its lack of legislative competence to change or trifurcate the capital.

In response, the State government filed a petition earlier this month, requesting that it be given five years' time, citing the difficulty in accomplishing the task in a short time (one month for infrastructure creation and six months for construction and development Amaravati from the date of judgement) and the severe financial constraints it is grappling with since bifurcation.



Meanwhile, the State government claimed to have resumed the works which were suspended soon after the YSR Congress came to power in May 2019 and said it is in the process of raising loans from banks.

Here lies a big problem: banks have made it clear that only a consortium of banks (a single bank cannot lend huge sums) can provide the credit required by the government.

Quest for loans

A bigger hurdle is the stipulation by the banks that the "revenue stream of the borrower (the government) should be reflected in the financial model" and "any budgetary support for servicing repayment obligations will not be considered".

These conditions have essentially tied the government in knots as complying with those procedures and obtaining final approvals from the lending institutions is itself a time-taking process and the government had to struggle to bridge the revenue deficit that is widening over the years.

Besides, the economy is going through a turmoil largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As it is, the government is running on a shoestring budget, which leaves no scope for it to meet the large expenditure entailed by the development of Amaravati even in separate tranches.

On the other side is Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's strong desire to have the three capitals in Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool, about which he is clear in spite of the setback suffered by the government in the court.

At the time of repealing the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of all Regions Act 2020 and the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Act in the State Legislature, he was on record, saying that the government would come up with a fresh Bill to give the three capitals a tangible shape sooner than later.

However, the new law proposed by the Chief Minister has so far not been introduced in the Legislature due to the risks involved in doing so as such a move is bound to be considered contempt of court and may lead to escalating the dispute to the Supreme Court.

Justice Gopala Gowda, retired judge of the Supreme Court who had been a vocal critic of the three capitals proposal, said in a recent workshop organised by the Amaravati Parirakshana Samithi, that the High Court judgment is the law till it is set aside by the Supreme Court as per Article 13 of the Constitution.

He said that not only the Chief Secretary but also all members of the State Legislature, including the Ministers, were jointly and severally liable to action for not implementing the order.

Therefore, it remains to be seen whether the Chief Minister will stick to Amaravati or proceed with the idea of three capitals and if the move derives any electoral mileage for the YSR Congress in the north Andhra districts and Rayalaseema.

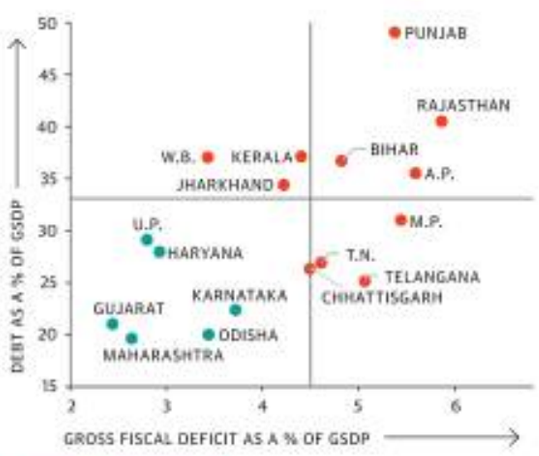
DATA POINT

States under fiscal constraints

The pandemic has worsened fiscal positions of State governments. Declining tax revenue, a high share of committed expenses (interest payments, pensions, administrative expenses etc.) and rising subsidy burdens meant that States were overtly dependent on Central transfers. A decline in revenue and increase in spending meant a sharp rise in debt. Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana had the highest debt burden in 2020-21. The revenue expenditure of many of these States constitute 80-90% of the total expenses and therefore they have poor capital spending

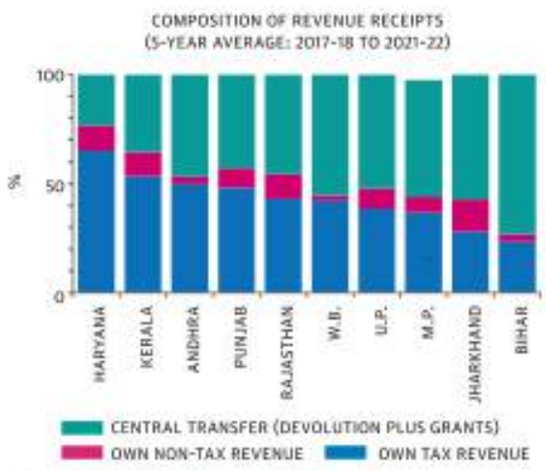
1. FISCAL DEFICIT AND DEBT TARGET

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Punjab exceeded both debt and fiscal deficit targets for 2020-21 set by the 15th Finance Commission. Kerala, Jharkhand and West Bengal exceeded the debt target, while Madhya Pradesh overshot the fiscal deficit target



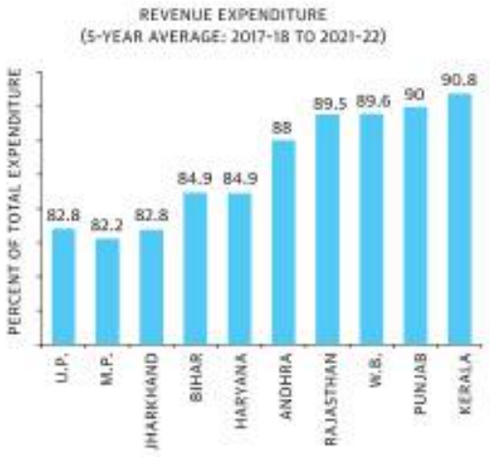
2. DEPENDENCY ON CENTRE

"Own" tax revenue of Haryana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh constitutes about half of their total revenue collections. The major source of revenue of other States is Central transfers. Within own tax revenue, States' goods and services tax (SGST), States' excise duties and sales tax are the major sources of revenue



3. HIGH REVENUE EXPENDITURE

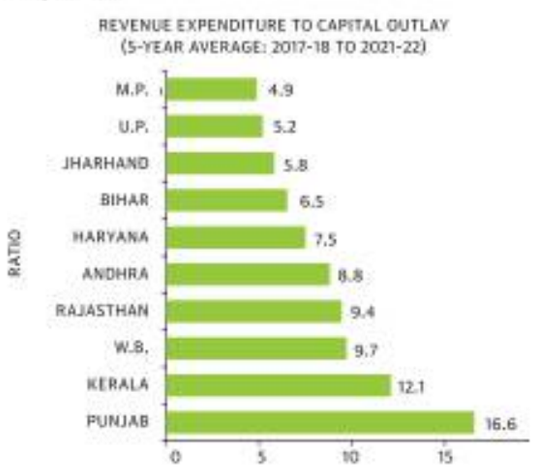
The share of revenue expenditure in total expenditure of these States varies in the range of 80-90 per cent. Some States like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala spend around 90 per cent in revenue accounts



The ten selected States account for around half of the total revenue collected by all states and UTs. They also account for around half of the total expenditure by all State governments in India

4. POOR CAPITAL OUTLAY

High revenue expenditure results in poor spending quality, as reflected in their high revenue spending to capital outlay ratios. Capital outlay is the money spent on acquiring assets while revenue expenditure indicates daily operations expenses like salaries and pensions



SOURCE: "STATE FINANCES: A RISK ANALYSIS" BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH AND PUBLISHED BY THE RBI

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 27, 1972

Sri Lanka seeks aid from China

Sri Lanka Premier Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike who arrived in Peking yesterday to an unprecedentedly warm and enthusiastic reception speaking later the same night called for China's continued support and co-operation to realise the acceptance of all powers in the world of the proposal to make the India Ocean a peace zone. She said the China could help clear the many hurdles which still lay ahead of the proposal, could become a reality. The Chinese Premier, Mr. Zhou En-lai pledging China's firm support for this "just proposal" urged all countries to respect, the resolution on the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a peace zone adopted by the United Nations General Assembly last December. The appeals by the two Premiers were made at a grand banquet given by Mr. Chou in honour of Mrs. Bandaranaike and her party in the banquet hall of the Great Hall of People. Although in her speech Mrs. Bandaranaike stated that she had gone to China primarily to express her appreciation "for friendship and co-operation which your country has been extending to Sri Lanka" there are indications that there are more concrete subjects on the agenda of talks which will take place in the coming few days. In particular it seems likely that China will be providing material assistance to strengthen both Sri Lanka's defence forces and its civilian police. Mrs. Bandaranaike indicated that she was expecting more aid from China "in fields in which it would be mutually beneficial and appropriate to us".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 27, 1922

Vacuum sweepers for streets

Plans are being considered according to the "Daily Chronicle" Special Correspondent at New York for making New York a dustless city by using motor-driven vacuum sweepers for cleaning the streets. Prominent businessmen who have urged this mehtod argue that the machines will remove daily the germs that now are only laid by rain, and thus reduce the mortality of the population considerably. They will cart of the dust that is now merely turned over by the ordinary sweepers. The saving in laundry bills will be large. Open windows will no longer mean dusty rooms, and the labour of the housewife will be greatly lightened. Finally it is estimated that 2,000 street sweepers will be released for other work, which will mean a saving of much money to the city.

FROM PAGE ONE

Uddhav camp says rebels will be disqualified

Stepping up the offensive against the rebels, Aaditya Thackeray said the rebels lacked courage. At a rally in Kalina, Mr. Aaditya said, "Mr. Shinde and the others could have staged their rebellion somewhere in Maharashtra. Remember, the road from Mumbai airport to Vidhan Bhavan, the State Legislature Complex, goes via Worli [Mr. Aaditya's constituency]," he warned.

"Even if all Sena MLAs go over to the rebel camp, victory will still be of the Shiv Sena in the end. True Shiv Sainiks have not left the party. Uddhav Thackeray will remain CM for next 25 years," Mr. Aaditya said.

"The BJP-ruled Centre, which ought to have given CRPF security to Kashmiri Pandits, are today giving security to the rebel MLAs. Their food bills run to ₹8 lakh to ₹9 lakh daily in a State [Assam] that is afflicted by floods. I feel bad that while flood-hit people are suffering, you [rebel MLAs] are enjoying there," he said.

Reiterating his support for the Sena under Mr. Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, speaking in Delhi, said, "The NCP's line is clear. We will keep supporting CM Uddhav Thackeray till the end."

SP loses its Azamgarh and Rampur bastions

In Delhi, Durgesh Pathak of the AAP won the byelection to the Rajinder Nagar Assembly seat, which was vacated by Raghav Chadha of the AAP in March when he became a Rajya Sabha member.

The Congress candidate in the Mandar Assembly byelection in Jharkhand, Shipli Neha Tirkey, defeated the BJP's Gangotri Kujur, by a margin of 23,690 votes.

The YSRCP candidate, Mekapati Vikram Reddy, won the byelection to the Atmakur seat in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly by 82,888 votes.

Should never forget dreadful period of Emergency: Modi

PM says the people of India re-established democracy in a democratic way

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said today's youth and the coming generations should never forget the dreadful period of the Emergency, as an attempt had been made to crush the country's democracy.

"It was the month of June (1975) when Emergency was imposed. In that, all the rights were taken away from the citizens of the country. One among those rights was the 'right to life and personal liberty'... .at that time an attempt was made to crush the democracy of India. The country's courts, every constitutional institution, the press, were put under control," he said during his "Mann Ki Baat" address.

> ...an attempt was made to crush the democracy of India. The country's courts, every constitutional institution, the press were put under control
>
> NARENDRA MODI
> PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister said the condition of censorship was such that nothing could be printed without approval. "I remember when famous singer Kishore Kumar refused to applaud the government, he was banned. His entry on the radio was done away with. But even after many attempts, thousands of arrests and atrocities on lakhs of people, the faith of people of India in the democracy did not shake...the people of India got rid of the Emergency and re-established democracy in a democratic way," he said.

Mr. Modi said, "During the Emergency, I had the good fortune to have been a witness; to be a partner in the struggle of the countrymen, as a soldier of democracy."

Vaccine numbers

The Prime Minister said that close to 200 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered in the country so far, asking people to take the booster shot after the second dose.

"If it is time for a precaution dose after your second dose, then you must take this third dose. Make your family members, especially the elderly, take a precaution dose," he said.

Highlighting the country's recent accomplishments in the space sector, Mr. Modi said one of them was the creation of an agency named In-Space. "Till a few years ago, in our country, in the space sector, no one even thought about start-ups. Today their number is more than a hundred... Chennai and Hyderabad have two start-ups – Agnikul and Skyroot. These start-ups are developing launch vehicles that will take small payloads into space. Through this, the cost of space launch is estimated to come down significantly," he said.

The Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space is working on high-technology solar panels for satellite deployer and satellites. "I also met Tanveer Ahmed of Digantara, another space start-up, who is trying to map waste in space. I have also given him a challenge that they should evolve work technology, which can solve the problem of waste in space. Both Digantara and Dhruva Space are going to make their first launch from ISRO's launch vehicle on June 30," he said.

The Prime Minister said about 750 school students, mostly from small towns, were working on 75 satellites in the country.

With regards to the field of sports, Mr. Modi said Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra won the gold in Kuortane Games. He broke his own record in javelin throw.

"In the recently held Khelo India Youth Games too, our players set many records... 12 records have been broken in these games. Not only that, 11 records have been registered in the names of female players," he said.

On the cleanliness drive, Mr. Modi appreciated the efforts of local agencies, voluntary organisations and people in making efforts to clean the river 'Chitte Lui' in Aizwal, Mizoram. The polythene waste was used to build a road. Another such effort was made in Puducherry where organic waste was made into compost and the rest was recycled.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a community programme in Munich, Germany. • PTI

Looking forward to 'fruitful discussions': PM

Modi interacts with Indian diaspora

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUNICH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said he was looking forward to "fruitful discussions" with world leaders on topical issues such as climate, energy, food security, counterterrorism, environment, gender equality and democracy as he arrived in Munich, Germany to attend the G7 Summit.

Mr. Modi is attending the summit, being held on June 26 and 27, following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The summit is being hosted by Germany in its capacity as the chair of G7, a grouping of the world's seven richest nations.

"Landed in Munich to participate in the G-7 Summit. I look forward to fruitful discussions with world leaders during the Summit," Mr. Modi tweeted.

Addressing the Indian diaspora during a massive event at the Audi Dome indoor arena here, Mr. Modi said that democracy was in the DNA of every Indian.

"Forty-seven years ago, an attempt was made to hold that democracy hostage and crush it. Emergency is a black spot on India's vibrant democracy," Mr. Modi said, targeting the Congress Party.

"We Indians feel proud of our democracy wherever we live. Every Indian can say with pride that India is the mother of democracy," he said.

Ukraine crisis

"At the invitation of @Bundeskanzler Olaf Scholz, PM @narendramodi arrives in Germany for the G7 Summit. Besides participating in @G7 discussions on climate, energy, food security, health, gender equality and more, PM will also hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a tweet.

The G7 leaders are expected to focus on the Ukraine crisis that has triggered geopolitical turmoil besides fuelling a global food and energy crisis.

"During the sessions of the Summit, I will be exchanging views with the G7 counties, G7 partner countries and guest International Organisations on topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy," Mr. Modi said in a statement ahead of his visit.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said on Friday that Mr. Modi would hold bilateral meetings and discussions with the leaders of the G7 and also the guest countries on the sidelines of the summit.

Besides India, Germany, the host of the G7 Summit, has also invited Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa as guests for the summit to recognise the democracies of the global south as its partners.

From Germany, Mr. Modi will travel to the UAE on June 28 to pay condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, former President.

'China upgraded firepower on LAC'

Intelligence inputs cite upgraded air defence systems, expanded runways

A 2021 photo shows Chinese soldiers and tanks during disengagement on the India-China border in Ladakh. • AFP

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Vastly expanded troop accommodation within 100 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the western sector, long-range artillery and rocket systems, upgraded air defence systems, expanded runways and hardened blast pens to house fighter aircraft – these are some of the major upgrades undertaken by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) on its side in the past two years since the stand-off in the eastern Ladakh began, according to intelligence inputs.

"In the western sector across the LAC, the accommodation capacity was for 20,000 troops in 2020 before the stand-off began. That has now been expanded to 1.2 lakh billets - infrastructure and accommodation-wise," an official source said on condition of anonymity, citing intelligence inputs. "They have also set up captive solar energy and small hydel power projects all along the LAC. This enhances their winter sustenance capability manifold," the source said, adding that this is apart from the model villages they are building all along the LAC.

This is within 100 km on the Chinese side from the LAC, the source said.

Four PLA divisions under the Xinjiang military district are being rotated on the Chinese side facing eastern Ladakh. In 2020, when the stand-off began, the fourth and sixth divisions were deployed, which were rotated with eighth and 11th divisions in 2021. This year, the fourth and sixth divisions have been redeployed as part of rotation. "All these divisions are in the process of being converted into a combined arms brigade (CAB). Equipment upgrade is almost complete," the source said.

On the weapons upgrade, sources said the fourth division, which has one armoured regiment, has inducted the ZTQ 15 (Type 15) third generation modern light tank, replacing the ZTZ-88 first generation tanks in service. The sixth division which operates the Type 96 A second generation tanks remains the same. In terms of technology upgrade, the fire control systems of the tanks have been upgraded, sources said.

Similarly, two mechanised brigades which operate wheeled armoured personnel carriers (APCs) have upgraded from the ZBL-08 to the latest ZTL-11 APCs.

Following the confrontation on the Kailash range on the south bank of Pangong Tso in August 2020 when India and China deployed tanks on the peaks at over 15,000 feet, the Indian Army too has issued a tender for the procurement of light tanks.

Similarly, air defence and airbases closer to the LAC have been upgraded, including blast pens and extended runways, an official source said citing inputs.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has developed heliports at Shigatse and Rudok and airbases have been upgraded with extended runways and blast pens at Gargunsh, Lhasa and Guangzhou, the source said.

In terms of long range firepower, the PLA has upgraded its artillery by replacing the towed howitzers with truck-mounted howitzers having a range of 50 km. This gives better mobility, faster shoot and scoot ability and less deployment time, officials noted.

In addition, the PLA has deployed the PHL-3 Multi-Rocket Launch Systems with a range of over 100 km and has better targeting than earlier versions. This is a Chinese version based on the Russian Smerch MRLS, three regiments of which are in service with the Indian Army.

On the draw

Sanjay Raut chastises rebel camp for 'loyalty' remark

Sena MP claims that a section of rebel MLAs want to return

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Sanjay Raut

As Maharashtra's political turmoil triggered by internecine strife within the ruling Shiv Sena entered its sixth day on Sunday, Sena MP Sanjay Raut revealed that had the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) kept its promise of sharing the Maharashtra Chief Minister's post with his party for two-and-a-half years, then Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray himself would have put forward rebel Sena Minister Eknath Shinde's name as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Raut, who had earlier said that the Shiv Sena's doors were closed for Mr. Shinde and the rebel MLAs, also said that he was still in talks with a section of legislators holed up in Guwahati while hinting at the possibility that they would be taken into the Sena's fold if they returned to Mumbai.

At the same time, he chastised the rebel camp for sitting in Guwahati and teaching Mr. Uddhav Thackeray and the Sena in Maharashtra about loyalty to party founder Bal Thackeray.

"Sitting in Guwahati, do not preach to us about loyalty to Balasaheb Thackeray. Uddhav Thackeray has made it clear that the rebels cannot use his father's name. Why don't you [rebels with Mr. Shinde] use your father's name to start a new party? You claim you are Balasaheb's staunch followers, but such 'staunch followers' do not stab the Sena in the back," he said, warning the rebels not to mislead people by claiming to be the 'real Shiv Sena'.

Earlier, Mr. Raut had tweeted that the rebels could not stay indefinitely in Guwahati and that they would soon have to come to Mumbai's 'Chowpatty'.

He accused the BJP of sponsoring hotel parties of rebel Sena MLAs who had joined Mr. Shinde in Guwahati while floods ravaged the north-eastern State of Assam.

Open dare

Challenging the MLAs in the Shinde camp, Mr. Raut said, "If you have the guts, then resign and show the courage to win elections from your respective constituencies. Even when [Union Minister and BJP leader] Narayan Rane exited the Sena, he resigned and contested elections," said Mr. Raut, expressing confidence that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government would survive.

Remarking that the rebellion of Mr. Shinde and the 40 or so MLAs with him was "no political earthquake", the Sena MP, in his column 'Rokhthok' in the party mouthpiece *Saamana*, said that the Sena had endured several such 'earthquakes' to emerge unscathed.

Stating that Mr. Shinde would have stood a better chance of become Maharashtra's Chief Minister had he remained in the party instead of revolting, Mr. Raut warned the rebel camp that the BJP was out to make 'slaves' of the 40 MLAs.

Pooh-poohing the BJP's claims of innocence in the ongoing political drama, the Sena leader said that if the latter claimed not to have a hand in sparking the crisis, then what was the need of such elaborate arrangements to keep the Sena rebel faction lodged in BJP-ruled States.

Observing that all those who revolted against the Sena – like Chhagan Bhujbal and Narayan Rane – saw their later political careers run into rough weather, Mr. Raut stressed that a split in the Sena's Legislative party did not translate into a split in the Shiv Sena as a whole.

Meanwhile, responding to Mr. Raut, BJP Maharashtra president Chandrakant Patil denied having any knowledge of a 'secret meeting' between rebel Mr. Shinde, Home Minister Amit Shah and Mr. Fadnavis in Gujarat's Vadodara.

Teesta, Sreekumar remanded in police custody till July 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

A day after arresting former top police official R.B. Sreekumar and activist Teesta Setalvad for alleged forgery in the 2002 Gujarat riots cases, the State police on Sunday formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe their role.

Ms. Setalvad and Mr. Sreekumar were sent to police custody by an Ahmedabad court till July 1.

Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad Deputy Inspector-General Deepan Bhadran heads the SIT. Superintendent of Police Sunil Joshi and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad Crime Branch, Chaitanya Mandlik are members.

The police will collect the documents submitted by the three accused – Ms. Setalvad, Mr. Sreekumar, and former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt – in connection with the 2002 riots cases.

"The investigation is under way and we are procuring documents submitted by the accused before the Commission of Inquiry, SIT, formed by the Supreme Court to investigate 2002 riots cases, and different courts," said Mr. Mandlik. He added that the affidavits and other documents were the main basis for the FIR lodged against the accused.

The investigators are not ruling out the involvement of other people in creating false documents, using them in judicial processes to implicate people in cases of serious crimes such as communal riots.

Activist Teesta Setalvad outside the Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Ahmedabad on Sunday. • VIJAY SONEJI

U.N. official seeks Teesta's release

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Mary Lawlor, has expressed "deep concern" over the arrest of activist Teesta Setalvad and called for her release. "Teesta is a strong voice against hatred and discrimination. Defending human rights is not a crime. I call for her release and end to persecution by the Indian state," Ms. Lawlor said.

Amarnath yatra may set record pilgrim number

SRINAGAR

Preparations for the annual Amarnath yatra, being held after a gap of three years, have seen a massive scaling up, with officials comparing the arrangements to that of the Kumbh Mela. Compared to 2.85 lakh pilgrims who visited in 2018, the Jammu & Kashmir administration is expecting eight lakh visitors this year. The highest number of pilgrims yet is 6.35 lakh, in 2011.

APPEAL

I am **Sri Mathi 9 years old** am suffering from Hodgkin Lymphoma. My family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of Rs.7,00,000/- to undergo Chemotherapy and surgery at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. I need your blessings and support. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY(Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010083310, IFSC No.CNRB 0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust. **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

Sri Mathi

INTERVIEW | PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

'Restoration of trust between States and Centre essential for GST system'

States should get direct taxation powers, extension of revenue guarantee, says chairman of the Congress Data Analytics Department

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

The GST Council is meeting in Chandigarh on Tuesday and Wednesday even as the tax regime completes five years in operation on June 30. Opposition parties and States have serious concerns regarding the continuation of the indirect tax regime premised on 'one nation, one tax, one market' principle. **Praveen Chakravarty**, *chairman of the Congress Data Analytics Department, was an early critic of the GST (Goods and Services Tax) regime. He thinks restoration of trust between the States and the Centre is essential for the smooth continuation of the GST system. Edited excerpts:*

You were sceptical when the GST regime was rolled out. You feel vindicated?

■ I wish I was proven wrong. My view on GST was shaped by my understanding of federalism, and by using an economic lense. Indian States are extremely diverse economically, apart from being politically diverse. GST was a misfit in India. India has political parties that are confined to the boundaries of particular States. I understated the ill-effects of GST in my original critique. They have only exacerbated in the last five years, partly due to the Centre's other centralising measures that accompanied the implementation of GST. The trust deficit between the Centre and the States has grown. I would not deny the fact that it is efficient. Efficiency comes at a certain cost though – political, social, and constitutional.

Will the GST system survive the current crisis?

■ The fact is that the country is half pregnant with the GST system, and we cannot go back. There are three issues that form the backdrop of the GST Council meeting this week. First is the complete breakdown of trust between the States and the Centre. Second is the Supreme Court order that said the Council's decisions are not binding on the States. Third is the lapsing of the revenue guarantee, which the Centre had promised the States for five years. I don't see GST will continue smoothly unless the trust issues are resolved,

The assumption that easy flow of goods across the country will boost growth did not turn out to be true

and the revenue guarantee is extended. Everybody acknowledges the fact that the GST regime has not lived up to the hype and hope.

'One nation, one market' – how has that idea evolved through the past five years, particularly through the pandemic?

■ The pandemic exposed GST's deficiencies. Had there been no GST, the States could have managed the situation better through their resource mobilisation and allocation. They ended up fighting with the Centre, and the Finance Minister invoked the Act of God principle to default on payments to them. Businesses are liking it for its efficiency. An economist would, however, not miss the point that its impact on the economy was not anywhere near the two percentage points (of growth) as was expected. The assumption that easy flow of goods across the country would boost growth did not turn out to be true. Maybe five years is early to make a judgment on that; may be it will happen in the coming years.

Is there something that is happening in the Congress which championed GST while in power? Was this discussed at the Udaipur *Chintan Shivir*?

■ I cannot disclose what was discussed in Udaipur, but can tell you that I discuss this issue internally in the party, as allowed. We must ask for a reassessment, re-evaluation of the GST as it stands today. Yes, the UPA government championed the GST, and the then Gujarat CM who happens to be PM today opposed it. In my defence, in the week of the launch of the GST, I, along with the current Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu PTR (Palanivel Thiagarajan), who was then an MLA, wrote a joint piece raising concerns.

Shall we say the views of the then PM were less accurate than the views of the then CM of Gujarat, when the idea of GST was taking shape?

■ The views of the current PM are less accurate than those of the current former PM. The notion that the crisis of GST is one of implementation is not true. GST implementation was shoddy, but the fundamental problem is that it is an economic square peg in the federal round hole. It would have been difficult for any government, and this government made it significantly worse, with a messy structure. I don't think even if the implementation had been smooth, there would have been no contestations.

Did Indian political parties fail to comprehend what was coming?

■ Economists and technocrats were viewing it through the prism of efficiency alone. They failed to see what it does to federalism, when regional parties see that they have no taxation powers.

Do you think the current GST regime can be rescued by tweaking it?

■ Restoration of trust is the most fundamental challenge. In order to reverse the centralising direction of governance, the Centre should consider giving States powers of direct taxation that they have only in agriculture.

Low turnout in GTA polling in Darjeeling

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
DARJEELING

The Darjeeling hills woke up to a foggy monsoon morning on Sunday when polling for the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration election was conducted after almost 10 years.

In the politically sensitive hills, there were no queues visible in the first few hours of polling.

At Singhmari, which was the epicentre of the violence during the 100-day-strike in the hills in 2017, Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leader Bimal Gurung arrived early in the morning. Before he entered his party office, he said that he would not cast his vote and was boycotting the election.

Pemba Sherpa, an Independent candidate for ward number 29, said, "Since there has been some demands about scrapping GTA, people are not enthusiastic to cast their vote." Even parties such as Hamro Party which have fielded candidates on all 45 seats decided to lie low as the polling went by on Sunday.

Release Setalvad and Sreekumar, says CPI(M)

'Arrest is an ominous threat to democratic-minded citizens'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Sunday demanded withdrawal of the cases and release of social activist Teesta Setalvad, retired Indian Police Service officer R.B. Sreekumar and others.

"The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) condemns the arrest of Teesta Setalvad who fought relentlessly for justice for the victims of the 2002 Gujarat violence. Her arrest is an ominous threat to all democratic-minded citizens not to dare question the role of the state or the government under whose regime communal violence takes place. This is abhorrent to democratic rights of citizens," said the party in a statement.

The CPI(M) said, "However, the action of the Gujarat administration in her arrest has been enabled by the questionable verdict of the three-member Bench of the Supreme Court which has made the complainant into the accused and ordering 'all those involved in such abuse of process need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with the law'."

CPI(M) leaders protest against the arrest of Teesta Setalvad, in Kolkata. • PTI

"It means any SIT (Special Investigation Team) established by the Court is to be considered outside the purview of judicial appeals and if anyone appeals against it, as did Zakia Jafri and Teesta Setalvad in the present case, then they are charged with 'abuse of process'. A fight for justice for 16 years is described in unusual derogatory terms as keeping the 'pot boiling for ulterior design'," said the party.

The party added, "It should be noted that the Court appointed *amicus curiae* in the SIT case, while agreeing with many recommendations of the SIT, had also recorded that certain sections of the IPC (Indian Penal Code) causing hatred among communities should be considered."

Senior party leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi on Saturday had said that the Supreme Court judgment should not be politicised.

On Sunday, Mr. Singhvi had tweeted, "The charge by BJP spokespersons that Teesta Setalvad acted at the behest of Congress president Smt. Sonia Gandhi is wholly bogus and baseless. The Congress party condemns these allegations most forcefully. These allegations are in direct contempt of the Supreme Court's judgment."

'Inaction does not imply conspiracy'

Bench calls for evidence to show 'meeting of minds' to commit crime

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Instances which "overrun" a State administration like breakdown of law and order caused by "spontaneous mass violence" or the second wave of the pandemic cannot be called the results of a "larger conspiracy" hatched at the highest level of political dispensation, the Supreme Court judgment in the Zakia Jafri case has held.

"The breakdown of law and order situation in the State, attributable to the alleged inaction of the [State] duty holders, owing to spontaneous mass violence cannot be a safe measure to infer as being a part of a criminal conspiracy at the highest level of political dispensation..." a three-judge Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar held.

The judgment observed that "larger conspiracy" can be alleged only if there is clear evidence to show a "meeting of minds" at the highest level to commit or promote the commission of a crime.

"To make out a case of larger criminal conspiracy, it is essential to establish a link

indicating a meeting of minds of the concerned persons for commission of the crime(s)," it noted.

With this, the court made it clear that the onus of proof is on the person who alleges the existence of a "larger conspiracy".

'No tangible material'

In Gujarat, the court concluded that the inaction or lack of effective measures taken by officials *per se* did not imply criminal conspiracy on the part of the State authorities which led to the 2002 violence.

There was also no "tangible material suggestive of a chain or any perceivable link or connection with the unfolding of mass violence across the State".

The judgment has created a buffer for top political leaders in power who may have to bear the brunt of allegations of "state-sponsored breakdown of law and order situation".

The verdict also endeavours to insulate the highest levels of political dispensation from the failures of a few possibly inept or overworked officials whose actions may not have helped to contain the breakdown of law and order on the ground.

"Inaction or failure of some officials of one section of the State administration cannot be the basis to infer a preplanned criminal conspiracy by the authorities of the State government or to term it a state-sponsored crime (violence) against the minority community," the court held.

The judgment gains significance in the background of recent communal violence in several States.

Pandemic attack

The court has said that a "larger conspiracy" cannot be readily inferred merely on the basis of the inaction or failure of the State administration. On the other hand, the State administration may have simply been overrun by the enormity of suddenness of events. The court pointed to the recent pandemic attack as an example.

"The overrunning of State administration is not an unknown phenomenon. It has been witnessed all over the globe during the second wave of pandemic, where the countries with even best of medical facilities crumbled and their management skills were overrun under the pressure. Can it be said to be a case of hatching of a criminal conspiracy?" Justice Khanwilkar asked.

Further, the court said, breakdown of law and order for a short duration cannot take the colour of a constitutional crisis.

"There must be credible evidence regarding State-sponsored breakdown of law and order situation; not spontaneous or isolated instances or events of failure of State administration to control the situation," the court noted.

Simranjit Singh Mann (left) receives the 'Certificate of Election' after winning the Sangrur Lok Sabha bypoll. • PTI

Simranjit Singh Mann makes a comeback

SAD(A) leader defeats AAP in Sangrur

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had a major setback on Sunday as it lost the Lok Sabha byelection to the Sangrur seat.

Simranjit Singh Mann, a known radical Sikh leader of Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) won the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat by securing 2,53,154 votes. He defeated his nearest rival of the AAP, Gurmail Singh, by 5,822 votes. Mr. Singh secured 2,47,332 votes.

The byelection is being seen as the first major test to ascertain the popularity of the three-month-old AAP government, which went into the Assembly polls earlier this year on the plank of its development work, and stern action against corruption, illegal mining and other "mafias" in the State.

Losing Sangrur is being seen as a big blow against the party, especially for Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, as the constituency is his home turf. The byelection was necessitated as the seat fell vacant after Mr. Mann contested and won from the Dhuri Assembly seat in the Assembly elections. Mr. Mann has won the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat twice, in 2014 and in 2019.

During the campaign, which saw a multi-cornered fight between the AAP, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), the Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) and the BJP, the Opposition cornered the AAP government on the deteriorating law and order situation, especially the rise in gangster-related crimes against the backdrop of the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, and several other crimes.

The CM was targeted for being "remote-controlled" from Delhi by the party supremo, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

BJP win in U.P. seats breaks myths

Muslim-Yadav family factor was attributed to SP's strength in Azamgarh

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

The Bharatiya Janta Party wrested the Samajwadi Party's strongholds of Azamgarh and Rampur as the Lok Sabha byelection results were declared on Sunday. In Azamgarh, in a first, Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirhaua' of the BJP won a closely contested triangular contest by defeating Dharmendra Yadav of the SP by 8,679 votes.

In Rampur, Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi of the BJP defeated Asim Raja of the SP in a straight contest by over 42,192 votes. The bypolls were necessitated because Azamgarh and Rampur were vacated by SP president Akhilesh Yadav and senior party leader Azam Khan after they decided to retain their Assembly seats.

The victory is significant because it broke the myth of the Muslim-Yadav family factor that is said to work for the SP consistently in Azamgarh. In 2014, SP patriarch Mulayam Singh won the seat, followed by Akhilesh Yadav in 2019.

CM Yogi Adityanath celebrating victory of BJP candidates in the Rampur and Azamgarh byelections. • SANDEEP SAXENA

Rampur, with around 58% Muslim population, was being seen as a cakewalk for Mr. Raja, a protege of Azam Khan who came out of jail just before the polls on bail and made emotional appeals in favour of his confidant.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath described the win as "the double victory of the double-engine government of the BJP".

The victory in the "challenging battles", he said, has a "far-reaching message for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls."

"This mandate is a reflection of the PM Narendra Modi's credo of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas*."

"People of Uttar Pradesh are not ready to support political parties which provide support to casteist and communal forces and shelter to the professional mafia," he added.

'Misused power'

Azam Khan addressed a press conference after the counting, and held the BJP government responsible for the loss as it "misused the administration".

"It is the victory of *Thoktantra* (vindictive policies) over *Loktantra* (democracy)," he said, charging the police administration with not allowing the Muslim voters to come out and vote.

The Bahujan Samaj Party's role also proved crucial in both the seats. In Rampur, it did not field a candidate, while in Azamgarh, the party fielded Shah Alam, alias Guddu Jamali, who secured more than 29% of the votes.

BJP attacked our Agartala office: Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday accused Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers of attacking its Agartala headquarters and assaulting its State unit chief, Birajit Sinha, and other party workers, stating that President's Rule would become necessary if the State government was unable to handle law and order.

The Congress Bhavan was attacked after party candidate Sudip Roy Barman's victory in the Agartala bypoll. "We demand an apology from the BJP president J.P. Nadda and an investigation by Home Minister Amit Shah into why these attacks occurred... we urge the authorities to take strict action against the culprits and ensure safety to Congress party offices and office bearers," said party general secretary K.C. Venugopal in a statement.

A three-member delegation of senior leaders, led by MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and comprising MPs Gaurav Gogoi and Naseer Hussain, will visit Tripura on Monday to take stock of the situation and make a report on the attack.

"This barbarous attack happened even as the police passively looked on, while BJP goons vandalised properties and carried out attack on party office bearers. It is utterly shameful that the police stood as mute and complicit spectators while the goons stormed the office and attacked our office bearers," the party said.

The Congress alleged that the BJP "goons" had earlier attacked Mr. Barman and he sustained serious injuries in the incident.

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e-AUCTION PUBLIC NOTICE

SALE OF AQUACULTURE UNITS (SHRIMP SEEDING) AT KATINKON VILLAGE & MAJALI VILLAGE, KARWAR TALUK, U. K. DIST.

The Assets of the following unit secured to the Corporation were taken over U/s.29 of the SFC's Act for recovery of loan dues are available for sale on **"As is where is and whatever there is condition basis"** through e-Auction.

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Dues position as on 31.3.2021 is Rs.280.68 crores (ie.,ODP+ODI)

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Meghalaya vows action on attack

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Home Minister Lakhmen Rymbui has said that the miscreants responsible for attacking two students from Kerala on June 24 would be brought to book.

The two students from the Central University of Kerala have been interning with a Shillong-based NGO for a month. They were assaulted by some 30 motorcycle-borne youth in Jaiaw, a locality dominated by the Khasi tribal people. Two others, including a traffic police constable, were also assaulted.

Mr. Rymbui said the police were monitoring some critical areas of the capital. He denied that the authorities were turning a blind eye to assault cases that had become quite frequent. "Registering of FIRs means action is being taken. Many people have been arrested and charge sheets have been filed in such incidents in the past," he said.

Should India worry about endemicity of COVID-19?

'At the moment we have to calibrate when we have to launch an outbreak-like response... vaccination should remain a public health activity'

RAMYA KANNAN
CHENNAI

Has COVID-19 become endemic or not, that is the question. While the world over, the debate rages on whether COVID-19 has reached an endemic phase, in India there seems to be broad consensus that it has in the country, though epidemiologists might have taken various paths to get there.

Interestingly, another question, whether endemicity is significant at all in the current context, is also cresting this wave of discussion among professionals, and might even take over the debate in the not so near future.

Dr. Jacob John, retired Professor of virology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, says the terms endemic and epidemic are based on patterns, and no one has attempted yet to post numbers that could establish the stage the SARS-CoV-2 virus is at currently. However, he uses a comparison with the numbers of the past, more a rule of thumb criteria to argue that the infection has entered the endemic stage in India.

Considering the seven-day average of cases during the peak of the epidemic, the daily numbers have not crossed the 10% of that figure since the decline in numbers began, he points out. Despite the rise in cases in the past few days, the number has remained below 10% of the seven-day average of cases during the peak of Omicron, Dr. John says.

"If you look at Bharat COVID-19 or World-o-meter, the disturbances in the flat line since the drop have been very minor," he says, adding that similar to what happens in an epidemic, the numbers have been going up only in certain cities in Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi and Tamil Nadu. "It is still virtually a flat line." Even when a disease is in the endemic stage, there can be seasonal outbreaks, and the spike in cases that a few cities in India are seeing now, could be equated to that, he reasons.

A health worker administers a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to a student at a school in Vellore. • C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, epidemiologist and public policy and health systems specialist, treads another path to arrive at his conclusion. Endemic and pandemic are all academic terms, not dependent solely on scientific parameters, he says. He draws attention away from the endemic-pandemic binary to a more experiential angle. "We know the extent of social and economic impact that COVID-19 had on the world. So, I believe that the idea is for societies to agree that the infection is an acceptable risk, as some countries are already doing so, despite the numbers going up. None of these countries are saying the disease is endemic, but they are saying life is returning to normal."

Dr. Lahariya also says it is his firm belief that it is irrelevant to India to debate endemicity or not of the virus in the country. "We should approach it from the practical position of 'acceptable risk' – of whether or not it is disrupting social and economic life in the country." India has reached a stage wherein the virus is not creating great havoc in terms of death or morbidity. "Three years down the line, a nation could look back and mark the point of time in which it turned endemic, but it is not logical or practical to look for these signs now," he explains.

Individual challenge

While he advances the view that the disease is no longer a population-level public health challenge, but rather an individual one, and recommends that our responses change appropriately, once again professionals are split in their opinion on this too. While Dr. Lahariya recommends protection of the vulnerable, continued economic surveillance, tracking the parameters (but don't worry) and COVID-19 appropriate behaviour, he believes that the onus has moved on to the individual, from the health system.

"I agree with the view that endemic or not, our action right now must be linked to where we are in terms of vaccination coverage (public health coverage), and continuing surveillance," says Dr. Prabhdeep Kaur, Deputy Director, ICMR- National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai. "This virus is fascinating in terms of its evolution, it keeps springing surprises on us. It is not like anything we have read in our textbooks."

At present, she says, COVID-19 does not conform to the textbook definition – by being present all over the world, though it waxes and wanes. That is probably why, she reasons, epidemiologists find themselves ranged on different points of the endemicity spectrum.

"The point is if we know that a disease in a community is present at a certain level, we do not have to react to it. There are different thresholds for different diseases and they also may be seasonal thresholds, but we have not been able to establish the threshold for COVID-19, because of several reasons - including changing practices for testing and surveillance. At the moment we have to calibrate when we have to launch an outbreak-like response," she adds.

COVID will continue to remain a disease of importance that has the ability to cause outbreaks, Dr. Kaur explains, listing why she believes vaccination should continue to be a public health activity.

If we fail to do this, there is potential to cause great damage in terms of mortality and morbidity. Dr. John says: "Somehow vaccination in India seems to have lost steam along the way. People are now asking why vaccinate when the peak is over. And as far as the government goes, the outreach and public education activity on why a booster dose is required, has not been sufficient. There is a difference between individual vaccine for averting risk, and a population-based vaccine. We still have to focus on the latter."

Centre asks firms to arrange Tricolour

Govt. to start 'Har Ghar Tiranga' drive

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Centre is set to launch a large-scale campaign to encourage Indians to fly the National Fag at their homes to mark the 75th Independence Day and has reached out to manufacturers and e-commerce sites to boost the availability of the Tricolour, according to officials aware of the programme.

The Centre is planning to celebrate Independence Week from August 11.

As part of the *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, the Culture Ministry is planning on celebrating August 11 to 17 as "Independence Week" across the country, Culture Secretary Govind Mohan said. During the week, the 26 crore households in the country would be encouraged to hoist the Tricolour as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. Mr. Mohan said the Ministry had been in touch with textile manufacturers to make sure the production of the flag was adequate. He added that meetings with e-tailers such as Amazon and Flipkart were being held, to make sure these sites would be a platform to buy flags.

The Ministry was in talks with States and Union Territories to coordinate the programme as well, with some States like Maharashtra already coming out with their plans, he said. The Government-e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, through which Government Departments and Ministries procure products, had also written to Ministries that they could place orders for flags for their offices through the portal.

On the demand side of the plan, Mr. Mohan said an awareness campaign to inspire individuals to hoist the national flag would be launched in July. The campaign would be rolled out in mid-July in railway stations, airports and Metro stations as well as at the panchayat-level in rural areas. A song by renowned musicians had also been commissioned.

In order to facilitate the campaign, the Union Home Ministry had last year amended the Flag Code, which earlier only allowed hand-woven or hand-spun flags to be made, to allow flags to be polyester and machine-made. According to two sources, the aim of the campaign was to inspire people, rather than carry out a distribution drive.

From July 1, Himachal to buy back single-use plastic

The government will pay students ₹75 for a kg of single-use plastic items they deposit with the school

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

As the Centre has decided to ban the use of single-use plastic from July 1, the hill State of Himachal Pradesh is all set to kick-start a buy-back scheme in schools and colleges to purchase the single-use plastic items from students in a bid to instil a sense of environment preservation by "catching them young".

Under the novel scheme, the students would be encouraged to bring single-use plastic items from their home and deposit it with the school, for which they will be paid ₹75 a kg by the government.

"Across the State, we have 3,000 eco-clubs in schools and in 100 colleges under the National Green Corps programme – these eco-clubs are an association of student-teachers that work to inculcate environmental awareness and protection. As a pilot project, we will start the buy-back scheme in 100 schools from July 1. Later, we will scale it up and implement the scheme in all the schools and colleges through the eco-clubs. We will pay the students ₹ 75 a kg for the single-use plastic items they bring. The purpose is to catch the students in their early years and teach them about environmental conservation. We believe that once a habit towards environment protection is inculcated during childhood it could stay lifelong," Lalit Jain, Director, Environment, Science-Technology and Member Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE), told *The Hindu*.

Novel programme: The government is implementing the scheme in 3,000 eco-club schools. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The HIMCOSTE is the State nodal agency for the National Green Crops – Eco-club Programme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Government of India – and is implementing the national scheme in 3,000 eco-club schools and 100 colleges in Himachal Pradesh.

Besides the students, the scheme also aims to involve teachers, school management committees and parents by creating awareness surrounding the ill-effects of plastic waste at the district-level through the eco-club schools, covering both rural and urban schools.

"The single-use plastic items collected from the schools would then be handed over to the Public Works Department and this plastic will be used in bitumen to construct roads in the State. The roads built with plastic-bitumen are durable and long-lasting, besides it would help to dispose of the waste plastic," said Mr. Jain.

At Senior Secondary School in Shimla district's Theog, Deepak Sharma, in charge of the school eco-club, is enthused by the new scheme to be launched. "We are hopeful that monetary assistance offered by the government will motivate students and teachers to bring the single-use plastic items to school for their disposal. At our school, we have been making students and the local community aware of the ill-effects of plastic, single-use plastic in particular. To curtail plastic use, we encourage the use of steel bottles for carrying drinking water to the school. We have already been organising inter-house competitions in the school. In the first week of June, the students held an awareness rally at Theog market to highlight the dangers of plastic on the environment, conveying the proper use of plastic and avoiding its littering. Making use of social media platforms, we show students motivational videos on nature conservation and biodiversity."

Odisha to install siren to caution elephant movement in forest

Officials have been deployed to assess its operability

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The Forest Department in Odisha is experimenting with a siren system, which would go off automatically sensing elephant herds crossing the National Highway to reduce human-elephant encounters.

"We in association with a non-government organisation have started a pilot project on siren system to alert traffic to elephant movement. The system has been installed at two places at Ratasingha and Haldihabahal," said Dhenkanal Divisional Forest officer Prakash Chand Gogineni.

Mr. Gogineni said, "The Forest Department officials have been deployed at two places to assess its operability and how seamless it can work to prevent encounters with wild elephants."

Steps are being taken to prevent elephant-human encounters.

"The siren system detects elephant herds approaching National Highway by its infrared sensor system. There is an in-built programme to identify jumbos from their sizes and other attributes. Once detected, the siren would go off alerting traffic from both sides," he said.

"We have found the system working when elephants were crossing NH. However, we will carry out overall assessment. We will evaluate how the system is responding to elephant herds and single elephant during crossing of roads," said the Dhenknal DFO.

As cropping season has begun, wild elephants would start coming out from forests. The Dhenkanal forest division has identified five crossing points for elephants. Invariably, elephant herds cross NH two to three times in week. There are chances of elephants getting collided with speeding vehicles. Sometimes, people riding two-wheelers bump into elephant herds.

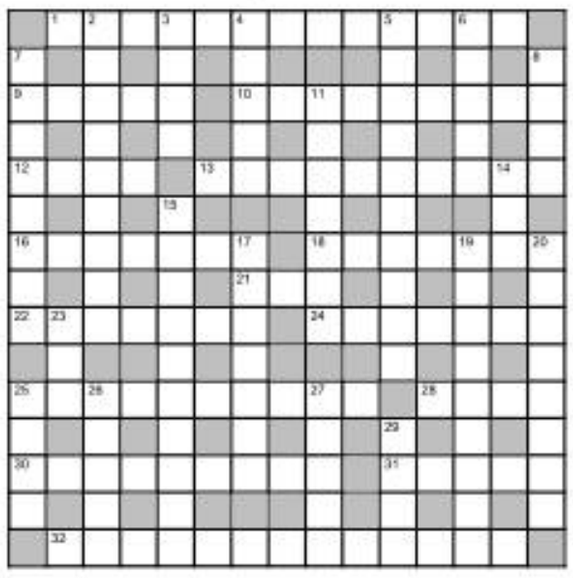
Similarly, the Khadi Village Industries Commission is implementing apiculture programme to keep elephants at bay in neighbouring Angul district. In cooperation with Athmallik Forest Division, about 100 bee boxes have been set up at border of Laxmipur village in Angul district. Marauding elephants stray into the village frequently damaging large crop areas. Sometimes, human-elephant encounters result in human casualties. Elephants are expected to be stung by bees if their boxes are hit. It would drive elephants back. CCTV cameras have been installed to capture reaction of elephants.

TH CROSSWORD + 13593

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Remain enchanted with mad race for Green Card? (8,5)
9 Confrontation leading to needless damage all around (3-2)
10 My weaknesses – Food Courts, Heavy Metal and Plays, occasionally (3,6)
12 Talk about unending animosity (4)
13 Pasta made with gnocchi and olive, without a drop of vinegar (10)
16 Church official sounds unsure about trading right (7)
18 Initially imitating Deepika, youngster later looked incredibly classy and charming (7)
21 Sense of identity that exists before ignorance essentially gets dissolved (3)
22 True proposition – "Love, just envelops and hate, regularly rebounds" (7)
24 Some frown on a Gondwana lotus temple's shape (7)
25 Partly elephantine, one's at centre of those people's pantheon of gods (10)
28 Not large type of infection (4)
30 Power source – most universal with unlimited supply (9)
31 Struggle of powerless authority (5)
32 Guess how universe was created? Began right by blowing up around nothing! (3,4,6)

Down

2 Metal worker casts out base of a heavy deity statue in the end (9)
3 Give out good shout (4)
4 Corporate boss having a minute role, short but significant (5)
5 Again making one run over last obstacle with a fast lift off (10)
6 Scare about Pope's power going to head (5)
7 Cocaine and cannabis? That's crazy! (8)
8 Bali's path, we are told (4)
11 Extremely bad, running kidnapping for sale (7)
14 Some Pakistanis involved in spying and sponsoring terrorism (3)
15 That R & B hero, perhaps, is an idol (5-5)
17 He doesn't have stable job set up, causing turmoil (7)
19 A measure of journey having no beginning and endlessly long (9)
20 Marriage papers (8)
23 Currency in endless turmoil (3)
25 Space set up by English squire (4)
26 Wear something that breathes air essentially (5)
27 Show of confidence – moving self at start to front position (5)
29 Part of liberal inheritance, how it is carried forward (4)

SUDOKU

			3	1			9	
4						6	2	
2		1		6	4			
	6			3	8	4		
1				9				3
		3	4	7			8	
			5	4		9		7
	7	6						2
	4			2	7			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13592

I	E	C	S	P	S	F	D
F	U	N	E	R	A	L	O	U	T	L	I	N	E
T	A	E	O	W	R	R	N
A	C	C	R	A	G	O	D	P	A	R	E	N	T
R	T	M	E	T	A	I
T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C	L	E	S
R	E	R	R	A	T
O	P	E	N	A	C	A	N	O	F	W	O	R	M	S
B	D	I	O	E	M
T	O	O	T	H	E	N	A	M	E	L
U	L	I	W	L	A	R
S	P	E	A	K	E	A	S	Y	D	E	L	I	A
E	N	I	V	O	O	P	M
L	I	C	E	N	C	E	G	U	N	S	H	I	P
Y	E	G	S	A	E	A	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	4	9	1	8	7	3	5
5	7	9	6	3	4	1	2	8
1	3	8	2	7	5	9	4	6
2	4	5	3	6	1	8	9	7
3	8	1	7	4	9	5	6	2
9	6	7	5	8	2	4	1	3
8	9	6	4	5	3	2	7	1
7	1	2	8	9	6	3	5	4
4	5	3	1	2	7	6	8	9

FAITH

Bliss of the Self

In the Advaita text Panchadasi, the author Vidyaranya explains the nature of the Self as the essence of bliss by alluding to the famous instruction by Yagnyavalkya to his wife Maitreyi in the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad. The acharya analyses the instruction that shows with relevant examples that it is individual self interest at work in all human relationships, pointed out Sri R. Rajagopala Sarma in a discourse. The conclusion drawn is '*atmanasthu kamaya sarvam priyam bhavati*,' 'the Self is most loved by all and is most dear.' It is shown that all objects, people and places are loved by people not for their sake but for the sake of the Self. In our day today life, when constant interaction is always taking place, at the family, social, cultural and spiritual levels, etc, it is the self or inner essence that is dear to each individual. The reason behind the love in ties such as those between husband-wife, parent-children, etc is one's own satisfaction. Even the love of wealth and possession only reflects the owner's sense of ego. Does wealth know that it belongs to a particular person? Or does it wish to belong to anyone it thinks is special?

When one seeks name and fame in life it is for the individual's sake since name and fame are insentient abstractions. One might rear animals such as cow or horse not because of any love for them but because they serve him in some way or other. At the bottom line in all these instances is the desire for happiness in us. Since the self is the essence of happiness and bliss, knowledge of this truth leads to realisation. To internalise this truth, the sage advises her to know about the atma. This is possible by the practices of sravana, hearing, manana, reflecting in one's mind and nididhyasana, contemplating and meditating on the Self at all times.

Russia strikes Kyiv as G7 summit opens

One killed, 6 injured as missiles damage residential buildings and kindergarten in the Ukrainian capital

ASSOCIATED PRESS
REUTERS
KYIV/POKROVSK

Russia shattered weeks of relative calm in the Ukrainian capital with long-range missiles fired toward Kyiv early Sunday, an apparent Kremlin show-of-force as Western leaders meet in Europe to strengthen their military and economic support of Ukraine.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the missiles hit at least two residential buildings, and killed one person and injured six others, including a seven-year-old girl and her mother.

"The Russians hit Kyiv again. Missiles damaged an apartment building and a kindergarten," said Andriy Yermak, head of the President's administration.

Mr. Klitschko told journalists he thought the airstrikes were "maybe a symbolic attack" ahead of a NATO summit in Madrid that starts on Tuesday.

A former commander of U.S. forces in Europe said the strikes also were a signal to the leaders of G7 meeting on Sunday in Germany.

Rescue work under way at an apartment building destroyed in a missile strike in Kyiv on Sunday. • REUTERS

As Europe's biggest land conflict since Second World War entered its fifth month, the Western alliance supporting Kyiv was starting to show signs of strain as leaders fret about the growing economic cost, including surging food and energy prices.

'United front'

U.S. President Joe Biden called the attacks "barbarism" after he arrived in Germany for the Group of Seven summit.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the West needed to maintain a united front against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"In order to protect that unity, in order to make it work, you've got to have really, really honest discussions about the implications of what's going on, the pressures that individual friends and partners are feeling," he told reporters.

"But the price of backing down, the price of allowing Putin to succeed, to hack off huge parts of Ukraine, to continue with his programme of conquest, that price will be far, far higher."

Life had been returning to normal in Kyiv after fierce resistance held off Russian advances in the early phase of the war, although air raid sirens regularly sound across the city. There had been no major strikes on Kyiv since June.

Mr. Klitschko said that Sunday's strike had partially destroyed a nine-storey apartment building and caused a fire.

"There are people under the rubble," Mr. Klitschko said. "They have pulled out a seven-year-old girl. She is alive. Now they're trying to rescue her mother."

Russia denies targeting civilians, but Ukraine and the West accuse Russian forces of war crimes in a conflict that has killed thousands, sent millions fleeing the Ukraine and destroyed cities.

The strategic eastern battlefield city of Sievierodonetsk fell to pro-Russian forces on Saturday after Ukrainian troops retreated.

The fall of Sievierodonetsk is a major defeat for Kyiv as it seeks to keep control of the eastern Donbas region, a key military objective for the Kremlin.

The war has had a huge impact on the global economy and European security, driving up gas, oil and food prices, pushing the EU to reduce reliance on Russian energy and prompting Finland and Sweden to seek NATO membership.

The fall of Sievierodonetsk – once home to more than 1,00,000 people but now a wasteland – transforms the battlefield in the east after weeks in which Moscow's huge advantage in firepower had yielded only slow gains.

Russia's Interfax news agency, citing separatist fighters, said pro-Russian forces had also entered Lysychansk across the river.

Russian missiles struck near the central Ukrainian city of Cherkasy on Sunday, killing one person and hitting a bridge that helps connect western regions with eastern battle zones, officials said.

Iran launches rocket into space ahead of nuclear talks

Washington calls the move 'unhelpful', warns of sanctions

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Iranian state television said on Sunday that Tehran had launched a solid-fuelled rocket into space, drawing a rebuke from Washington ahead of the expected resumption of stalled talks over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

Josep Borrell

It's unclear when or where exactly the rocket was launched, but the announcement came after satellite photos showed preparations at Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's rural Semnan province, the site of Iran's frequent failed attempts to put a satellite into orbit.

State-run media aired dramatic footage of the blastoff against the backdrop of heightened tensions over Tehran's nuclear programme, which is racing ahead under decreasing international oversight.

Iran had previously acknowledged that it planned multiple tests for the satellite-carrying Zuljanah rocket, named for the horse of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammed. It was not immediately clear whether Iran successfully launched the satellite carrier into its intended orbit.

The White House said it was aware of Iran's announcement and described such actions as "unhelpful and destabilising." It said it was committed to using sanctions and other measures to prevent further advances in Iran's ballistic missile programme.

The news comes after the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, traveled to Tehran in a push to resuscitate negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme. Several sticking points remain, including Tehran's demand that Washington lift terrorism sanctions on its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

Mr. Borrell said that talks over the nuclear deal would resume in a Persian Gulf country in the coming days, with Iranian media reporting that Qatar would likely host the negotiations.

Former President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran. Tehran responded by ramping up its nuclear work and now enriches uranium closer to weapons-grade levels.

In a further escalation that limits international oversight into its nuclear program, Iran removed over two dozen International Atomic Energy Agency cameras from its nuclear sites this month.

At least 21 dead in South African club, cause not yet known: police

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
EAST LONDON

At least 21 teenagers, the youngest possibly just 13, died after a night out at a township club in South Africa, in a tragedy whose cause remains unclear.

Many are thought to have been students celebrating the end of their high-school exams.

There were no visible wounds on the bodies. Officials have ruled out a stampede as a possible cause and said autopsies would determine if the deaths could be linked to poisoning.

Crowds of people, including parents whose children were missing, gathered on Sunday outside the club where the tragedy happened in the city of East London, while mortuary vehicles collected the bodies.

Senior government officials rushed to the southern city. "It's a terrible scene," Police Minister Bheki Cele told reporters.

The provincial government of Eastern Cape said eight girls and 13 boys had died. Seventeen were found dead inside the club. The rest died in hospital.

"Forensic (investigators) will take samples and test to see if there was any poisoning of any sort," Unathi Binqose, a safety government official, said, adding the bar was overcrowded.

G7 proposes $600-bn global infra plan to rival China

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ELMAU CASTLE

The G7 group on Sunday announced an attempt to compete with China's formidable Belt and Road Initiative by raising $600 billion for global infrastructure programmes in poor countries.

The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, unveiled with fanfare by U.S. President Joe Biden and G7 allies from Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the European Union, aims to fill a huge gap left as communist China uses its economic clout to stretch diplomatic tentacles into the furthest reaches of the world.

Mr. Biden said the target was for the U.S. to bring $200 billion to the table, with the rest of the G7 another $400 billion by 2027.

Funding the kinds of projects that China currently dominates – everything from roads to harbours in far-flung corners of the world – is not "aid or charity," Mr. Biden said.

Highlighting the geostrategic thinking behind the G7 plan, Mr. Biden said such projects "deliver returns for everyone, including the American people and the people of all our nations."

This is "a chance for us to share our positive vision for the future" and for other countries to "see for themselves the concrete benefits of partnering with democracies," he said.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen echoed this, saying "it is up to us to give a positive, powerful investment impulse to the world, to show our partners in the developing world that they have a choice."

Although China was not referred to by name, the rivalry loomed large over the leaders' presentation, a relaunch of a first attempt at a Western infrastructure fund that Biden laid out during last year's G7 summit in Britain.

Private firms in key role

Unlike China's state-run BRI initiative, the proposed G7 funding would depend largely on private companies being willing to commit to massive investments and is therefore not guaranteed.

Meanwhile, the world powers on Sunday agreed to ban gold exports from Russia, at a G7 meeting designed to take fresh concerted action to deplete Moscow's war chest.

They are seeking to close ranks for Ukraine against Russia's invasion while grappling with the intensifying global fallout of the war.

"We have to stay together," Mr. Biden told German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Fuel price hike squeezes Sri Lankans

This comes amid U.S. officials' visit aimed at alleviating the island's economic crisis

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka hiked fuel prices on Sunday, creating further pain for ordinary people as officials from the U.S. arrived for talks aimed at alleviating the island's dire economic crisis.

Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) said it raised the price of diesel, used widely in public transport, by 15% to 460 rupees a litre while upping petrol 22% to 550 rupees.

The announcement came a day after Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said there would be an indefinite delay in getting new shipments of oil.

Mr. Wijesekera said oil due last week had not turned up while shipments scheduled to arrive next week would also not reach Sri Lanka due to "banking" reasons.

Difficult period: Motorists waiting in a queue to buy fuel in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Sunday. • AP

Mr. Wijesekera apologised to motorists and urged them not to join long queues outside pumping stations.

Many have left their vehicles in queues hoping to top up when supplies are restored.

Official sources said remaining fuel supply was sufficient for about two days, but that authorities were saving it for essential services.

A delegation from the United States Treasury and the State Department arrived for talks to "explore the most effective ways to support Sri Lankans in need", the country's Embassy in Colombo said.

"As Sri Lankans endure some of the greatest economic challenges in their history, our efforts to support economic growth and strengthen democratic institutions have never been more critical," U.S. Ambassador Julie Chung said in a statement.

The Embassy said it had committed $158.75 million in new financing in the past two weeks to help Sri Lankans.

Prince Charles accepted cash from Qatar: report

His office says 'got charity donations'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Prince Charles' office has denied there was any wrongdoing in the heir to the British throne accepting bags full of cash as charity donations from a Qatari politician.

The *Sunday Times* said the Prince was given a total of €3 million by Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, the former Prime Minister of Qatar. It said the money was handed over to Prince Charles at private meetings between 2011 and 2015 – on one occasion in a suitcase, and on another in shopping bags from London's Fortnum & Mason department store.

The newspaper said the money was deposited into the accounts of the Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund. It did not allege that anything illegal was done.

Prince Charles

Prince Charles' office, Clarence House, said in a statement that the donations "were passed immediately to one of the Prince's charities who carried out the appropriate governance and have assured us that all the correct processes were followed."

The charitable fund told the newspaper it had verified "that the donor was a legitimate and verified counterparty... and our auditors signed off on the donation after a specific enquiry during the audit. There was no failure of governance."

Second day of protests over U.S. abortion ruling

8 States impose ban on the procedure

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Abortion rights defenders fanned out across America on Saturday for a second day of protest against the Supreme Court's thunderbolt ruling, as State after conservative State moved swiftly to ban the procedure.

The deeply polarised country grappled with a new level of division: between States that will now or soon deny the right to abortion, enshrined since 1973, and those that still allow it.

A few thousand people thronged the streets on Saturday outside the fenced-off Supreme Court in Washington, in hot summer weather, carrying signs that read "War on women, who's next?" and "No uterus, No opinion."

"What happened yesterday is indescribable and disgusting," said Mia Stagner, 19, a political science major in college.

Demonstrations also took place in Los Angeles, with dozens of smaller rallies from coast to coast.

At least eight right-leaning States imposed immediate bans on abortion – with a similar number to follow suit in coming weeks.

Fuelling the mobilisation, many now fear that the Supreme Court might next set its sights on rights like same-sex marriage and contraception.

Women in States that severely restrict abortion or outlaw it altogether will either have to continue with their pregnancy, undergo a clandestine abortion, obtain abortion pills, or travel to another State where it remains legal.

But "most women don't have the time of day or the financial resources to travel across state lines to get an abortion," Mikayla Marcum, a 23-year-old said.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sharath S/o Panduranga Kulkarni , R/o: #5 Sreenilayam , Flat Number 102 , Basapura Main Road E City Opposite Dream Paradasie Layout , Basapura, Bengaluru-560100, have changed my name to Sharath Kulkarni for all purposes.

I, Rakesh Rao S Bhojgade S/o Suresh Babu Rao, residing at , Door Number 27 5th Main Mattadhalli Rt Nagar, Bengaluru- 560032, declare that My Father's Name has wrongly been written as Suresh Babu Rao Bhojgade in My PAN Card, Passport, Driving License, Educational Documents document.The actual name of My Father's Name is Suresh Babu Rao.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Form No. INC-26
(Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)
Before the Central Government, Regional Director, South East Region, Hyderabad
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of SAMYAMA JYOTHI SOLAR ENERGY PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN: U40104KA2015PTC081225)
having its Registered Office at 25, Doddanekundi Industrial Area Mahadevpura Post, Whitefield Main Road Bangalore, KARNATAKA-560048
.....Applicant Company / Petitioner
NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under Section 13(4) of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 15th June, 2022 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Karnataka" to the "State of Telangana".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his /her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his / her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South East Region, 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500068, Telangana within fourteen days (14) from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant Company at its Registered Office at the address mentioned below:-
25, Doddanekundi Industrial Area Mahadevpura Post, Whitefield Main Road Bangalore, KARNATAKA-560048
For & on behalf of Applicant
SAMYAMA JYOTHI SOLAR ENERGY PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
RAGHAVENDRA RAHUL KORLAM
[DIRECTOR]
DIN : 08925952
Date : 27.06.2022 | Place : Bangalore

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ASK US

VIDYA BALA

Q. I am 60 years old. I retired from a PSU seven months back and have a kitty in NPS (auto choice). In addition, I have lump sum retirement funds which I have/propose to invest in safe options like SCSS/PMVVY/RBI floating rate bond and MIS, etc. I will have some surplus left after the above. As I have been getting good and safer returns from my NPS account, I do not wish to exit it in full. Is it possible to buy annuity worth 40% of the amount and reinvest balance 60% in NPS with same or different PRAN? What will be tax implication if above route is possible? I have the option of buying annuity directly from my retirement lump sum fund but I wish to avoid that as it will attract GST.

VIVEK RAJU SAXENA

A. If you had applied for continuation of NPS account or deferment of lumpsum withdrawal at least 15 days before your retirement, you could have continued with same PRAN as detailed here: *https://www.npscra.nsdl.co.in/nps-exit-option.php*

But you can still open a new account and contribute and also claim tax deduction as is the case with regular NPS. However, make sure you get these points right: one, make sure you have sufficient sources of monthly cash flow through other incomes. Two, your equity allocation should not be high as it is possible that you may not keep this invested for too long. Three, from our understanding, if you invest this afresh, then you will need to commute another 40% again with an annuity, when you withdraw.

And the annuity income will be taxable. Four, you will have a lock in of 3 years. Please check these points before you invest. Finally, I don't think paying tax should come in the way of buying some immediate annuity plans as long as the plan is a good one.

Also, the other option is for you to go with low-risk debt funds in categories such as corporate bond funds or banking & PSU debt funds if you want the money to grow and yet have liquidity.

If you need income, then you can use ultra-short debt funds in addition to the above and do a systematic withdrawal plan.

Q. I am doing investments of around ₹1.2 lakh per year consisting of ₹70,000 in LIC and ₹50,000 in HDFC tax saving scheme. My monthly income is ₹65,000. My queries are as follows: Recently a friend told me that if we do investments that are non-taxable even then we need to pay tax on the interest on the total sum at time of maturity. Is this true? For example, if I am investing ₹50,000 in HDFC policy (tax-free) for 5 years. Maturity of policy date is 10 years and I get ₹9 lakh after 10 years. So, will this ₹9 lakh be added to my taxable income for that year and I have to pay tax on it again? Second, I want to buy a house 2 years from now. How should I do my investments so that I have at least ₹10 lakh in hand in 2 years.

HARSHIKA CHAUDHARY

A. We are assuming both the policies you are mentioning are money back policies - either ULIPs or traditional ones. The amount you receive from such policies are tax free under Section 10(10D) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. However, in case you are invested in tax-saving mutual fund (called ELSS), then the profit will be taxed as capital gain at 10%. If you are young, our advice would be that you don't get into too many money-back policies.

Their returns are abysmal. You are better off going with tax-saving mutual funds and invest other savings (outside of tax saving) in equity index funds or ETFs.

On saving withing 2 years - the time frame is not sufficient to take any risks. Hence, it is best to invest in bank FDs - perhaps with small finance banks that give higher interest or go with short duration debt funds. Assuming you do get moderate return of 7% you will need to invest ₹40,000 per month at least to get there.

Q. I am 21 and I have some savings. Where can I invest it? Is post office a good option? What are the different savings schemes available at post office? What returns can be expected after the end of 4 to 5 years.

BHARATHI JK

A. Post office recurring and time deposits offer anywhere between 5.5% (1 year) to 6.7% (for 5 years) and this is not attractive for a young investor like you.

You can start with PPF, which you can invest through major banks as well, if you are looking at long term investment. PPF offers 7.1% at present that this will keep changing when rates change. At present you can expect it to go up but it may also come down in future.

It is still among the better returning government scheme options. It also gives you tax deduction, in case you are in a job and have income that is taxable. If you will take some risks and willing to wait for minimum of 7 years, then there are also mutual funds that you can look at. Doing a SIP in a Nifty based index equity fund is a good way to start. For shorter durations like 2-3 years, use short term debt funds.

Q. In a response to an earlier query that appeared in this column, it was stated that there is some risk in placing FDs with small finance banks. As deposits with such banks are covered by insurance up to ₹5 lakh what other risk is expected.

T K KANNAN

A. There is safety in the form of insurance for up to ₹5 lakh as you have pointed out. But as a class of banks, small finance banks can be riskier than traditional banks given that their mandate is to lend primarily to priority sectors. And such sectors are fraught with risk of default. Hence their risk profile is typically higher than regular FDs. But as long as you are investing under ₹5 lakh in such banks and have sufficient corpus in large systemically important banks (SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank) then it is indeed fine.

(The financial adviser is co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Decrypting the CRYPTO MYTH

Bitcoin and its peers fail to deliver on any of the promises boasted on the packaging — be it security or anonymity

ANAND SRINIVASAN
SASHWATH SWAMINATHAN

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are generally perceived as assets, currencies or both. As impactful as cryptocurrencies' have been as tools of speculation in current financial markets, the narrative behind the existing technology holds the key to breaking it and most fads down.

Cryptocurrencies are computer-managed ledger entries that can function as money if someone is willing to value these entries as money and use them in transactions.

Cryptocurrencies inherently possess no value whatsoever, but are valued at high prices. The reason why cryptocurrencies are the behemoth instruments seen today lies in the narratives propagated surrounding them.

The primary narrative which appeals to most cryptocurrency enthusiasts is the idea that cryptocurrencies, due to some advanced technical brilliance, excel as a currency compared with a dull old currency note.

Moreover, the benefits boasted by Bitcoin (the most prominent cryptocurrency) promoters are anonymity and security. Additionally, the use case of Bitcoin (and other cryptocurrencies) involves it being used as a currency to purchase goods and services.

Claims of untraceability have been falsified in multiple instances in which governments have traced, recovered stolen Bitcoins

Finally, Bitcoin is promoted as a financial asset which can be used as a storehouse of value analogous to gold.

Furthermore, Bitcoin is said to function in the same vein as gold because it is limited in numbers and not a productive asset.

As we have seen in recent times, Bitcoin and its peers fail to deliver on any of the promises so proudly boasted on the packaging.

For a currency to be a viable medium of exchange, the primary requirement is for it to be relatively stable in value.

Bitcoin has spectacularly failed in this respect, falling more than 56% over six months (at the time of writing this piece).

Moreover, it has also been unable to weather an interest rate increase of merely 1.75%, while the U.S. Federal Reserve has promised further stiff hikes to curb inflation.

Bitcoin vs gold

Gold, in comparison with Bitcoin, has been able to hold its own. Gold has been a mainstay in human society for millennia. However, like Bitcoin, it also derives a significant portion of value from the price people place on it (apart from the other use cases gold has, for example in electronics).

Bitcoin proponents' claim of supposed anonymity and untraceability has been falsified in multiple instances in which governments have tracked criminal activity and recovered stolen Bitcoins.

An added defence by Bitcoin enthusiasts is quoting British economist Henry Dunning Macleod's idea of Gresham's law, which states that bad money (or money with lower intrinsic value) drives out good money (or money with higher inherent value). Gresham's law implies that people eventually hoard money with greater intrinsic value (supposedly Bitcoin) and only use bad money (this label is generally assigned to fiat currencies). However, this claim has also been falsified as Bitcoin buyers were quick on the uptake to sell their holdings in exchange for fiat currency in the face of a loss of value.

The question is, if all the narrative elements of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies range from shaky at best, to blatantly false, how has it so effectively permeated general society?

The answer lies in how most decision-making is bubbles and financial narratives spread through society. The speculative nature of Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies is undeniable. Most of the small-time investors lured into buying and holding cryptocurrencies are those looking to profit from the massive surge in Bitcoin price by more than 400% from the year 2020-21. It is challenging to deal with the fear of missing out, popularly termed FOMO.

Information cascade

When one sees their peers make money, it is hard to resist the urge to mimic their actions. The accompanying effect of faulty decision-making is called an 'information cascade'.

An information cascade causes people to value the judgment and actions of others in contrast to their own. Furthermore, Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency trading applications have been heavily advertised before significant sports events such as the IPL and endorsed by popular Bollywood stars whom people idolise. These apps also let the retail investor take on leverage, which has caused many people to lose their savings and more.

The way to escape viral financial narratives and fads as a small-time investor is to heed the advice of timeless advice provided in the famous book 'The richest man in Babylon' by George S. Clason.

One of the most important rules from the book is to avoid investment opportunities which promise you supposedly great returns in a relatively short period.

The efficacy of the Bitcoin narrative was in the idea that the prices would keep rising and that the investor, no matter what the scenario was, would stand to gain a tidy profit. Additionally, another rule which the investor Warren Buffet also says is to avoid investment opportunities which you do not inherently understand well. Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies are just another brick in the wall of the countless previous narratives which have spread and collapsed in the history of financial markets.

(Anand Srinivasan is a financial consultant, Sashwath Swaminathan is a research associate at Aionion investment services)

COVER NOTE: THE LARGER PICTURE

An insurance premium rate increase isn't always bad!

It is an indication of something good because it is still a promise that your increasing losses will be reimbursed

K. NITYA KALYANI

Price rise is bad. It pinches you where it hurts the most. You have to rethink and regroup your life and plans.

However, when premium rates are raised, as in many things in insurance, it is not exactly what it seems to be.

An increase in premium is an indication of something good because it is still a promise that your increasing losses will be reimbursed.

Increasing claims

When insurance companies increase premium rates, they are catching up with increasing claims. The way it works in the real world, they rarely are ahead of that race.

There may be a higher number of claims (as during COVID-19 or a natural disaster), claims of higher value (due to rising cost of healthcare or car repairs or whatever) or a combination of both.

All good: It's in our interest the insurer has a sustainable business as he has to be around to pay our claims. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Price rises as well as unforeseen events can through the economics of insurance into disarray. Add to this the complications of investment returns with interest rate drops and tanking stock markets.

Higher claims logically lead to less profits or even in losses for the insurer. It's in our own interest that the insurer has a sustainable and profitable business because he and his company have to be around to pay our claims, for a few decades even in the case of life insurance policies and annuities. If increasing premium is the way for the insurance industry to ensure business continuity, then that is a good thing, for you.

Ponder this. When your motor insurance renewal premium comes around in the next few months. It will be higher because the third-party liability premium has been increased as part of a periodical review and reset to reflect losses.

This is one insurance where the premium you pay is loaded highly in your favour not only in terms of any claims expense but also the legal work.

Worth the weight

The troublesome processes that go with a defending yourself in a motor accident case will make you realise the insurance policy, and its premium, is worth its weight in gold.

There is also a larger picture. Skipping this insurance is not only illegal, but skewers the dynamics of third-party liability insurance.

A majority of the vehicles on the road have no insurance (illegally) and yet cause accidents that the industry pays for partially, but society pays more dearly for it leaves lives and families shattered and with no sure protection.

Coming back to knee-jerk reactions to insurance premium hikes, if you pass on your insurance renewal, whether health, motor, home, life or pension, you are writing yourself out of the protection circle.

The problem you should solve is not that challenging. If you have a car between 1,000 and 1,500 cc engine capacity, your TP liability premium was ₹3,221 and will now be ₹3,416 at the next renewal.

Unnoticeable difference

This difference of ₹195 is something that you won't even notice. And premium hikes keep you covered for rising expenses you are likely to face when there is a loss. As I keep saying, the question you have to ask yourself while buying insurance is, is the premium expensive or the claim?

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Citibank	9.99-16.49	10,621-12,290	2,124-2,458	Up to 3%
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 2.75%
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Axis Bank	10.25 onwards	10,685.13 onwards	2,137.03 onwards	1.5%-2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 2.5%
Canara Bank	10.60-14.30	10,772-11,712	2,154-2,342	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	8.80-15.35	10,331-11,987	2,066-2,397	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-15.50	10,621-12,027	2,124-2,405	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	9.80-13.90	10,574-11,608	2,115-2,322	Up to 1% (Max Rs 7,500)
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.40-12.40	10,722-11,224	2,144-2,245	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	10.75-18.50	10,809-12,833	2,162-2,567	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	10.95-11.20	10,859-10,921	2,172-2,184	Up to 1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.90-11.90	10,846-11,097	2,169-2,219	Up to 0.75%
Karnataka Bank	12.00-17.00	11,122-12,426	2,224-2,485	Up to 2% (Max Rs 8,500)

NEW CAR LOAN-RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure-5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
Union Bank of India	7.70-8.90	10,067-10,355	Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.55-8.35	10,031-10,222	0.25% (Rs 1,000-1,500)
Bank of Baroda	7.95-11.25	10,126-10,934	0.50% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	7.40-10.30	9,995-10,697	0.25% (Rs 1,000-5,000)
UCO Bank	8.05	10,150	1% (Upto Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	7.45-8.35	10,007-10,222	NIL
IDBI Bank	8.10 - 9.90	10,162-10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-11.20	10,067-10,921	waived off till 30th June 2022
Indian Overseas Bank	8.45	10,246	0.5% - 0.6% (Rs 500-Rs 10,000)
ICICI Bank	7.35-8.50	9,983-10,258	Rs 5,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	7.95-8.30	10,126-10,210	0.5% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.19 - 10.24	10,184-10,683	Up to 0.6% (max. Rs 11,000)
Punjab and Sind Bank**	7.70-8.80	10,067-10,331	Up to 0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
South Indian Bank	9.55-11.00	10,513-10,871	1% (max. Rs 10,000)
Indian Bank	7.80-8.00	10,090-10,138	0.50% (max. Rs 10,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder. 0.05% concession on interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR.

**0.10% interest rate concession to women car owners having contribution in EMI, subject to minimum ROI.

Rates and charges as on June 22 Source: Paisabazaar.com

Tector drives Ireland to 108

Overs get reduced to 12 owing to persistent rain; India opts to field

INDIA IN IRELAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALAHIDE

Harry Tector's counter-attacking 64 not out off 33 balls took Ireland to 108 for four in the rain-hit first T20I against India here on Sunday.

India opted to bowl in overcast conditions but soon after the rain arrived, delaying the start of play by more two hours and 20 minutes. The break reduced the game to 12 overs a side.

Ripe conditions

The conditions were ripe for Bhuvneshwar Kumar to make the ball talk and he did just that in the opening over of the match.

The wily operator got the ball to swing both ways before an inswinger breached the defence of Ireland skipper Andrew Balbirnie.

Skipper Hardik Pandya got himself into the attack in the second over and took two balls to dismiss the dangerous Paul Stirling.

After hitting the first ball over cover, Stirling went for the same shot but mistimed to be caught at mid-off.

Avesh Khan then had Gareth Delany caught behind in his first over to leave Ireland at 22 for three.

The aggressor: Tector scattered the Indian bowling with an unbeaten 64 from 33 balls. •TWITTER/CRICKETIRELAND

India was expected to run through the opposition but Ireland staged a spirited recovery through Tector, who went for the offensive against the Indian pacers, including debutant Umran Malik.

All eyes were on the Indian pace sensation but he had a rather nervous start to his international career.

He dragged his third ball down the leg side and it raced to the boundary off Lorcan Tucker's (18 off 16) pads.

Two balls, later Tector played a beautiful straight drive off a full delivery.

Malik dragged the next one short but Hector was ready to pull it for a six.

India 78/2

- Chasing a target of 109, India was 78 for two after 7 overs. Hooda (28) and Hardik (18) were at the crease. Kishan (26) and Suryakumar (0) were the batters dismissed.

SCOREBOARD

IRELAND

Paul Stirling c Hooda b Hardik 4 *(5b, 1x4)*, Andrew Balbirnie b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(2b)*, Gareth Delanay c Karthik b Avesh 8 *(9b,1 x4)*, Harry Tector (not out) 64 *(33b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Lorcan Tucker c Axar b Chahal 18 *(16b, 2x6)*, George Dockrell (not out) 4 *(7b)*; Extras (lb-7, w-3): 10; Total (for four wkts. in 12 overs): 108.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Balbirnie, 0.5 overs), 2-6 (Stirling, 1.2), 3-22 (Delany, 3.5), 4-72 (Tucker, 8.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 3-1-16-1, Hardik 2-0-26-1, Avesh 2-0-22-1, Axar 1-0-12-0, Umran 1-0-14-0, Chahal 3-0-11-1.

Toss: India.

Rohit tests positive for Covid-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

India skipper Rohit Sharma has tested positive for Covid-19 and placed in isolation ahead of the rescheduled 'fifth' Test against England, the BCCI said on Sunday.

The Test is scheduled to begin here on July 1 and if Rohit remains in six-day isolation, either pacer Jasprit Bumrah or wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant could be asked to lead the team.

"Team India captain Mr Rohit Sharma has tested positive for COVID-19 following a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) conducted on Saturday," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a media release.

Rohit had batted on first day of the ongoing warm-up game against Leicestershire but didn't take the field on the second day. He did not bat in the second innings.

The 35-year-old Indian skipper is expected to open the innings alongside Shubman Gill in the Test and his participation will now depend on the result of his RT-PCR test and recovery.

R. Ashwin had joined the squad in England late since he had tested positive for COVID-19 before the team left for the UK tour.

Rohit. •REUTERS

Warm-up game ends in draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LEICESTER

Opener Shubman Gill struck 62 (8x4, 2x6) while R. Ashwin took two for 31 after making his first appearance in the game following his recovery from a COVID-19 infection as India's warm-up match against Leicestershire ended in a draw here on Sunday. The host made 219 for four in its second innings.

As many as five Indians turned up for both the teams during the four-day match as the visitors looked to put final touch to the preparations for the Test starting on July 1.

India women eye series sweep

They will be keen to improve their batting and fielding

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DAMBULLA

The series already in their pocket, a confident India will look to complete a whitewash when it takes on host Sri Lanka in the third and final women's T20 International here on Monday.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led outfit had thrashed the home team by 34 runs in the opening T20 and then followed it up with a five-wicket win in the second game to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

More importantly, the wins will be a morale-booster for India ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham starting next month, where women's T20 cricket is set to make its debut.

India seems to have found the winning momentum, but won't be entirely pleased with its performance in the series so far.

While the bowlers have done a stellar job in the two games, India's batting has left a lot to be desired.

Additionally, the Indians have been sloppy on the field. And the visitors would be keen to correct these shortcomings.

Teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Simran Bahadur, Yastika Bhatia, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Richa Ghosh, Sabbhineni Meghana, Meghna Singh, Poonam Yadav, Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar and Radha Yadav.

Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (Capt.), Nilakshi de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Vishmi Gunaratne, Ama Kanchana, Hansima Karunaratne, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Harshitha Madavi, Hasini Perera, Udeshika Prabodhani, Oshadi Ranasinghe, Inoka Ranaweera, Sathya Sandeepani, Anushka Sanjeewani, Malsha Shehani and Tharika Sewwandi.

Match starts at 2 p.m.

Madhya Pradesh keeps its date with maiden Ranji Trophy glory

Shrivastava's men quell heavyweight and multiple-time champion Mumbai's challenge to register a clinical six-wicket win

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BENGALURU

The arena juxtaposed between the leafy Cubbon Park and the bustling MG Road has seen varied slices of history. Vivian Richards made his Test debut here, Sunil Gavaskar bowed out of the longest format after playing on this surface and, on Sunday, the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium bore witness to a fresh champion in Indian domestic cricket.

Madhya Pradesh kept its date with the record books, winning its maiden Ranji Trophy title with a six-wicket victory over Mumbai. Pursuing 108 in the final, the champion got the winning runs while losing four wickets in a second innings that lasted 29.5 overs.

A victory to cherish: Madhya Pradesh team members' joy knew no bounds after they asserted supremacy in the nation's premier tournament. •K. MURALI KUMAR

Nerves upfront

After Mumbai registered 269 in its second innings, Aditya Shrivastava's men had to play the percentages. However, like it happens with meagre chases, there were nerves upfront once Dhawal Kulkarni rattled Yash Dubey's timber. Mumbai skipper Prithvi Shaw swapped his bowlers while Himanshu Mantri and Man-of-the-Match Shubham Sharma added 52 for the second wicket and a fruitful pursuit took shape. Mantri perished in trying to sweep Shams Mulani, but another bout of nerves was quelled when Sharma hoisted a six of the same bowler.

Next man Parth Sahani holed out in the deep and, at 66 for three, Rajat Patidar walked in and even if he and Sharma had to deal with a run-out scare, the duo clicked and Madhya Pradesh had a sunny afternoon to celebrate. Patidar's aesthetic counter-punches to Mohit Avasthi kept the fans happy and even if Sharma got dismissed, soon it was time for the ecstatic Madhya Pradesh players to run into the turf and celebrate while also lifting their coach Chandrakant Pandit upon their shoulders.

Earlier, resuming at the overnight 113 for two, Mumbai went for quick runs while the Madhya Pradesh bowlers tried to restrict. Left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya bowled around leg-stump with six fielders on the on-side while seamer Gaurav Yadav preferred a hover wide outside off-stump.

Mumbai batters still hustled as Suved Parkar swept Kartikeya and when Armaan Jaffer drove towards sweeper-cover, two fielders – Shrivastava and Sharma - collided and were in agony. That the Mumbai batters continued running was in poor taste. The fielders recovered even if Sharma was in pain.

Erasing the deficit

Parkar then hoisted Yadav for six but the latter had some respite when he flummoxed Jaffer with a slower delivery while the batter moved far too across and got castled. Sarfaraz Khan stepped in and when he took a single off Yadav in the 32nd over, Mumbai moved to 163 for three and erased the deficit. As if to celebrate, Sarfaraz struck a four and six off left-arm spinner Sahani.

Meanwhile Parkar got his 50 but succumbed when attempting a cut off Kartikeya as the ball homed into the stumps. In the same over, Yashasvi Jaiswal miscued a lofted shot. Sarfaraz and new man Mulani were trying to settle when a run out scuppered their plans. Mulani left and Sarfaraz followed suit, picking the fielder on the fence and became debutant Sahani's maiden wicket. The wickets tumbled and Madhya Pradesh was left with a fourth innings chase which it successfully executed.

The scores:

Mumbai – 1st innings: 374 in 127.4 overs.

Madhya Pradesh – 1st innings: 536 in 177.2 overs.

Mumbai – 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw c Yash Dubey b Yadav 44 *(52b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Hardik Tamore b Kartikeya 25 *(32b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Armaan Jaffer b Yadav 37 *(40b, 3x4)*, Suved Parkar b Kartikeya 51 *(58b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Sarfaraz Khan c Anubhav Agarwal b Sahani 45 *(48b, 2x4, 1x6)* , Yashasvi Jaiswal c Patidar b Kartikeya 1 *(2b)*, Shams Mulani run out 17 *(24b, 1x4)*, Tanush Kotian c Himanshu Mantri b Kartikeya 11 *(24b)*, Tushar Deshpande run out 7 *(25b)*, Mohit Avasthi lbw b Sahani 15 *(25b, 1x6)*, Dhawal Kulkarni (not out) 2 *(15b)*; Extras *(b-4, (b-4, w-6)*: 14; Total (in 57.3 overs): 269.

Fall of wickets: 1-63 (Tamore, 10.3 overs), 2-83 (Shaw, 15.6), 3-139 (Jaffer, 25.6), 4-192 (Parkar, 34.1), 5-198 (Jaiswal, 34.5), 6-232 (Mulani, 41.5), 7-236 (Sarfaraz, 43.3), 8-250 (Kotian, 50.1), 9-252 (Deshpande, 52.1).

Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kumar Kartikeya 25-3-98-4, Anubhav Agarwal 9-0-53-0, Gaurav Yadav 10-0-53-2, Parth Sahani 7.3-0-43-2, Saransh Jain 6-0-14-0.

Madhya Pradesh – 2nd innings: Himanshu Mantri b Mulani 37 *(55b, 3x4)*, Yash Dubey b Kulkarni 1 *(3b)*, Shubham Sharma c Armaan Jaffer b Mulani 30 *(75b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Parth Sahani c Tanush Kotian b Mulani 5 *(7b)*, Rajat Patidar (not out) 30 *(37b, 4x4)*, Aditya Shrivastava (not out) 1 *(2xb)*; Extras (b-4): 4; Total (for four wkts. in 29.5 overs): 108.

Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Dubey, 1.2), 2-54 (Mantri, 16.3), 3-66 (Sahani, 18.6), 4-101(Sharma, 28.1).

Mumbai bowling: Shams Mulani 13-0-41-3, Dhawal Kulkarni 3-0-7-1, Tushar Deshpande 3-1-3-0, Tanush Kotian 8-0-29-0, Mohit Avasthi 2-0-19-0, Sarfaraz Khan 0.5-0-5-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Shubham Sharma.

Man-of-the-Series: Sarfaraz Khan.

Pandit completes a pending job

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chandrakant Pandit had some unfinished business at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Back in the 1998-99 season, leading Madhya Pradesh, he watched his team fritter away a winning chance in the Ranji Trophy final against host Karnataka. Batter Vijay Bharadwaj used his part-time off-spin to unsettle Pandit's men and it was a defeat that rankled him all along.

Cut to the present, as coach of Madhya Pradesh, he made amends as his wards won their maiden Ranji title, hoodwinking Mumbai in the latest final that concluded at the same venue here on Sunday. Interestingly Bharadwaj was present at the ground while Pandit charted a fresh path.

Only for a day

"I had lost the match back then and I always felt that I had to give something back to the State. I am happy that we won," Pandit said in the post-match press conference, while sitting next to him, winning captain Aditya Shrivastava quipped that he wanted his coach to smile more. "He is intense but I want him to celebrate," Shrivastava said and Pandit chipped in: "But only for a day!"

We've done it! Madhya Pradesh skipper Shrivastava and head coach Pandit savour the moment. •K. MURALI KUMAR

Pandit was quick to point out the hard-work put in by the players and the encouragement gleaned from the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association.

"Every season I see it as a mission and that's how I stay motivated," Pandit said while Shrivastava stressed that he was confident about his team's prospects right from the beginning. "We all made sacrifices, prioritising the cricket calendar over our personal lives," he said, and Pandit added: "He didn't even get time for his honeymoon!"

While Pandit and Shrivastava exuded delight and satisfaction prior to their address to the media, Mumbai's coach Amol Muzumdar congratulated the winning squad and added that his young unit has the right talent and should do well in the future. "I am excited by the prospects within the team," Muzumdar said and regretted the one off-day his players had during the Ranji final. "In our earlier games we didn't have to take the second new-ball, we got regular wickets but here during the third day we couldn't and that affected us," he said besides lauding the character revealed by Sarfaraz Khan and the touch-batsmanship displayed by Rajat Patidar. "I enjoyed his batting, I mean not enjoy as in enjoy," he said obviously becoming conscious of him being a rival coach and then grinned and added: "He was good to watch."

England in command

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LEEDS

Jack Leach took his maiden 10-wicket haul in Tests before Ollie Pope and Joe Root set about leading England's charge to a series whitewash of New Zealand at Headingley on Sunday.

The host was 183 for two at stumps on the fourth day of the third and final Test, needing just a further 113 runs to reach a target of 296 on Monday's last day. Pope was 81 not out and Root, on his Yorkshire home ground, 55 not out, with the pair having shared an unbroken stand of 132.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand – 1st innings: 329.

England – 1st innings: 360.

New Zealand – 2nd innings: Tom Latham c Bairstow b Overton 76, Will Young c Pope b Potts 8, Kane Williamson c Bairstow b Potts 48, Devon Conway c Pope b Root 11, Henry Nicholls c & b Leach 7, Daryl Mitchell lbw b Potts 56, Tom Blundell (not out) 88, Michael Bracewell c Crawley b Leach 9, Tim Southee b Leach 2, Neil Wagner c Billings b Leach 0, Trent Boult b Leach 4; Extras (b-9, lb-2, nb-2, w-4): 17; Total (in 105.2 overs, **at tea**): 326.

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-125, 3-152, 4-153, 5-161, 6-274, 7-291, 8-305, 9-305.

England bowling: Broad 24-7-63-0, Leach 32.2-12-66-5, Potts 25-5-66-3, Overton 14-2-61-1, Stokes 4-0-30-0, Root 6-0-29-1

England – 2nd innings: Alex Lees run out 9, Zak Crawley c Williamson b Bracewell 25, Ollie Pope (batting) 81, Joe Root (batting) 55; Extras (b-5, lb-6, nb-2): 13; Total (for two wkts. in 39 overs): 183.

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-51.

New Zealand bowling: Boult 9-2-37-0, Southee 12-4-32-0, Bracewell 11-0-70-1, Wagner 7-1-33-0 (2nb).

Mayers' ton puts WI on top

AGENCIES
GROS-ISLET (ST. LUCIA)

Kyle Mayers scored 146 to propel West Indies to 408, a first innings lead of 174 on the third day of the second and final Test on Sunday.

Bangladesh, in its second innings, had made 32 for three in its second innings when rain interrupted in the second session.

The scores: Bangladesh 234 & 32/3 (Kemar Roach 3/15) vs West Indies 408 (Kraigg Brathwaite 51, Kyle Mayers 146, Khaled Ahmed 5/106, Mehidy Hasan 3/91).

Djokovic and Nadal lead the title quest

Serena is targeting what could be her greatest triumph

Prep-time: Djokovic and Serena honing their skills ahead of The Championships beginning on Monday. •AFP

WIMBLEDON

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal headline the title chase at The Championships where eight-time champion Roger Federer, the world's top two players as well as valuable ranking points will all be missing.

Djokovic is bidding for a seventh title at the All England Club to move level with Pete Sampras. Nadal, fresh from a 14th French Open victory and a record-extending 22nd Major, is halfway to the first men's calendar Grand Slam in more than half a century.

The decision to ban Russian and Belarusian players in the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine means there is no place for World No.1 Daniil Medvedev or eighth-ranked Andrey Rublev.

Also missing is Germany's World No. 2 Alexander Zverev, who suffered ligament damage during his French Open semifinal against Nadal.

Djokovic and Nadal, ranked three and four, are therefore the top seeds meaning if they are to face each other for the 60th time, it can only be in the final.

Djokovic gets play underway on Monday against Kwon Soon-woo of South Korea, while

Nadal faces Argentina's Francesco Cerundolo in his opening match on Tuesday.

Should Djokovic or Nadal falter, then Italy's Matteo Berrettini, runner-up to Djokovic in last year's final, would be the most likely beneficiary.

The World No.11 has won back-to-back grasscourt titles at Stuttgart and Queen's.

In the women's section, Serena Williams, ranked a lowly 1,204 in the world and without a competitive singles match in 12 months, will sweep into Wimbledon targeting what would be her greatest triumph.

The seven-time champion at the All England Club will also be chasing down a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title.

The top-seeded, 21-year-old Pole Iga Swiatek arrives at the tournament with a second French Open title secured and on a 35-match win streak.

The women's draw remains open with defending champion Ashleigh Barty having retired earlier this year. Four-time Major winner Naomi Osaka, rarely a serious threat on grass, has withdrawn with injury.

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka Women vs India Women: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 2 p.m.
The Championships 2022: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards
England vs New Zealand: 3rd Test, day 5, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.30 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 2nd Test, day 4, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Bagnaia wins Dutch MotoGP

ASSEN (NETHERLANDS)

Italy's Francesco Bagnaia won the Dutch MotoGP on Sunday after championship leader Fabio Quartararo crashed out of an incident-packed race. Frenchman Quartararo fell twice and in the second incident flipped over his handlebars although he walked away afterwards, shaking his fists in anger. AFP

Tsitsipas wins Mallorca Championships

PALMA (SPAIN)

Stefanos Tsitsipas won the Mallorca Championships, defeating Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(2) as they prepared to play on the grass courts of Wimbledon. It was Tsitsipas' first grass-court title. His ninth career crown was also Tsitsipas' second of the season after he retained his Monte Carlo title in April. AP

McLaughlin sets 400m hurdles world record

EUGENE

Sydney McLaughlin punched her ticket to the athletics World Championships with a world record 51.41s victory in the 400m hurdles at the US trials here on Saturday. McLaughlin shaved .05s off the record she set in winning Tokyo Olympics gold last August. AFP

Parag Shrivas to stay at Bengaluru FC

BENGALURU

Defender Parag Shrivas committed his future to Bengaluru FC, signing a fresh three-year deal to keep him at the club until the end of the 2024-25 season. The 25-year-old, who joined the club as part of its Residential Academy in 2017, made his first team debut in February 2019, and has 27 appearances in the Indian Super League so far.

Kolar DFA makes the summit clash

Kolar DFA secured a place in the final of the KSFA inter-district football tournament following a 2-2 draw with Kalaburagi DFA in the final round on Sunday. Sunil Kumar scored a brace to earn the all-important point to set-up a summit clash against Dakshina Kannada. **The results**: Kalaburagi DFA 2 (Md. Rehan Khan 13, Mirza Safdar Baig 15) drew with Kolar DFA 2 (Sunil Kumar 9, 55); **On Saturday**: Kolar DFA 2 (Manigandan 64, Ajay 78) bt Hassan DFA 0.

Harsha wins title

BENGALURU

Guhan Nelamangala Harsha, with 4.5 points, won the under-16 title at the Champions Chess Academy chess tournament held on Sunday. In the under-10 category, Anish Raghavan emerged the champion with five points.

Bale to move to MLS with Los Angeles FC

LOS ANGELES

Wales captain Gareth Bale on Saturday confirmed his move to Major League Soccer's Los Angeles FC following his departure from Real Madrid. AFP

Veteran Sjostrom, teenager McIntosh complete doubles

Swede's Worlds gold collection touches 10, while the Canadian lands her fourth medal

SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BUDAPEST

Sarah Sjostrom, who has been winning world titles for 13 years, and Summer McIntosh, who has been winning them for four days, both collected their second gold medals of the week here on Saturday.

Sjostrom, a 28-year-old Swede who won the 50m butterfly less than 24 hours earlier, added the 50m freestyle, her 10th world gold.

McIntosh, a Canadian 15-year-old, held off 16-year-old American Katie Grimes to win the women's 400m medley title. McIntosh, who won the 200m butterfly gold on Wednesday, claimed her fourth medal in Budapest in 4:32.04s.

Grimes was 0.63s back, while another American, Emma Weyant, was a distant third ahead of Hungarian 33-year-old Katinka Hosszu, the defending champion.

Sjostrom finished her sprint in 23.98s, 0.20s ahead of Pole Katarzyna Wasick, with Australian Meg Harris and American Erika Brown tied for bronze.

Golden girls: Summer McIntosh winning the 400m medley and Sarah Sjostrom with her latest gold. • REUTERS & GETTY IMAGES

Sjostrom narrowly missed another medal when she anchored Sweden to fourth in the women's 100m medley relay that closed the championships. The United States won, anchored by 17-year-old Claire Curzan. Australia was second and Canada, with Penny Olesiak holding off Sjostrom, third.

Won, lost and won again

The men's 50m backstroke gold medal was presented twice, with the US anthem played twice.

In the first race of the evening, Justin Ress was disqualified after a video review for finishing entirely under water as he touched the wall first.

His training buddy Hunter Armstrong was awarded gold, winning in 24.14s.

Ksawery Masiuk, a 17-year-old Pole, initially took silver, 0.35s back, with Italian Thomas Ceccon, who set a 100m backstroke world record on Monday, taking the bronze on loan.

Armstrong wiped a tear as he stepped off the podium after accepting the gold in the evening's first medal ceremony.

Disappointed

"I'm very disappointed my teammate was disqualified and hopefully Team USA's protest will be successful," he said.

He got his wish, when a jury upheld the appeal after the swimming finished. Ress came out alone to stand on the top step of the podium and receive his medal in the last medal ceremony of the championships.

Still good for gold

Lithuanian Ruta Meilutyte won her first world gold since 2013 when she edged Italian 17-year-old Benedetta Pilato by 0.10s in the women's 50m breaststroke final. South African Lara van Niekerk was third.

Ruta Meilutyte had not when a major championship medal of any colour since 2015.

The results: Men: 50m backstroke: 1. Justin Ress (USA) 24.12s; 2. Hunter Armstrong (USA) 24.14s; 3. Ksawery Masiuk (Pol) 24.49s.
1500m freestyle: 1. Grigorio Paltrinieri (Ita) 14:32.80s **(MR)**; 2. Bobby Finke (USA) 14:36.70s; 3. Florian Wellbrock (Ger) 14:36.94s.
4x100m medley: 1. Italy 3:27.51s; 2. USA 3:27.79s; 3. Great Britain 3:31.31s.
Women: 50m breaststroke: 1. Ruta Meilutyte (Ltu) 29.70s; 2. Benedetta Pilato (Ita) 29.80s; 3. Lara van Niekerk (RSA) 29.90s.
50m freestyle: 1. Sarah Sjostrom (Swe) 23.98s; 2. Katarzyna Wasick (Pol) 24.18s; 3. Meg Harris (Aus) & Erika Brown (USA) 24.38s.
400m medley: 1. Summer McIntosh (Can) 4:32.04s; 3. Katie Grimes (USA) 4:32.67s; 3. Emma Wyant (USA) 4:36.00s.
4x100m medley: 1. USA 3:53.78s; 2. Australia 3:54.25s; 3. Canada 3:55.01s.

Upbeat Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan working to go to the next level

Targets reaching Grand Slams by Wimbledon next year

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan is understandably upbeat after winning back to back Challenger titles on European clay last fortnight with Sriram Balaji. Yet, he has set a realistic target of getting back to the Grand Slams by Wimbledon next year.

In the capital, on a stop over before flying to Colombia for two more Challengers, Jeevan put things in perspective.

"We didn't have any expectations. We are putting in the work. Water your plant, and see what happens," said Jeevan, quite clear about not being anxious for good results.

Television commentary

The preparation for the Challenger titles was two weeks of television commentary from the studio in Mumbai for the Roland Garros, especially in Tamil.

"It was not a vacation. I had good training during those 14 days, with Navdeep (Singh), Vishnu (Vardhan). I had done a public speaking course in college and also one on the ATP, so I enjoyed the commentary. Somdev (Devvarman) was on a different level. He is so well prepared and very professional," said Jeevan.

He is delighted with the bonding with Balaji, and recalled the pleasant experience of having Indian dinner every day for a week in France, on way to the second Challenger title, as the hotel was owned by an Indian.

Dynamic combo: Jeevan says he and doubles partner Balaji have mutual respect. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Trust is very crucial in doubles. Balaji and I have mutual respect. We are not in any hurry to get back to the highest level. We want to do the work. We know that we can go deep, as and when we get to the Grand Slams.

"With some of the players enjoying 50% of the points earned in 2019 till the end of this year, the real ranking will take some more time to emerge.

"We may not get to play the Australian Open or the French. Wimbledon could be a good chance," said Jeevan, who has competed in all the four Grand Slams, and three years in a row in Wimbledon.

He was grateful for the pillars of strength in his career -- mother Kalyani and sister Swapna, who watch his matches on-line, stay in touch with him and boost his morale.

Jeevan did win the ATP Tour doubles title with Rohan Bopanna, and looks forward to the ATP Tour after the Challengers in July in Spain.

If they sustain the good work, Jeevan and Balaji would soon find themselves in the top-100 of world ranking, and plot their way into the higher echelons of the game.

Mirabai striving hard to get better

WEIGHTLIFTING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATIALA

It won't be surprising if diminutive Mirabai Chanu, stands atop the podium, flashing her radiant smile, after winning a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games on July 30.

After all, she will enter Birmingham, as title favourite. Chanu's personal best is 207kg (88kg+119kg) which is far better than the best effort of Nigeria's Stella Kingsley, who will be her nearest rival and has managed only 168kg (72kg + 96kg) till date.

"CWG will be easy for me. I will be fighting with myself," Chanu, who already has a silver (2014) and a gold (2018) at CWG, asserts politely.

"There is not much competition in CWG, but that doesn't man there is no competition. I have to give my best performance keeping in mind the future tournaments," she said during a candid chat at Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NIS).

Since there won't be competition, Chanu has bigger targets in mind.

She is eager to rewrite her own clean and jerk world record of 119kg.

"I am thinking of attempting 120kg in the CWG." The former world champion also wants to breach the much-anticipated 90kg mark in the snatch section.

Dhanalakshmi surprises Safronova

Annu Rani, Ancy Sojan win gold

ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU

S. Dhanalakshmi surprised host Kazakhstan's former Asian Games champion Olga Safronova as she won the women's 200m gold in a personal best 22.89s at the Qosanov international athletics meet, a World Athletics Continental Tour event, in Almaty, Kazakhstan on Sunday.

It was the third fastest time ever by an Indian, behind Saraswati Saha's National record (22.82s) and Hima Das' 22.88.

Meanwhile, Asian silver medallist Annu Rani took the women's javelin throw gold with a good 62.29m effort while long jumper Ancy Sojan maintained her consistent run and pocketed the event with a 6.44m. Her last three jumps were all above 6.40m.

Karanveer triumphs

With Asian record holder Tajinderpal Singh Toor pulling out, Karanveer Singh won the men's shot put.

In triple jump, Eldhose Paul, who was desperate for a 17m-plus to improve his chances of going to next month's World Championships in the US, took the silver with 16.55m. U. Karthik struggled through his series before producing a 16.15m in his final jump for the bronze.

K.M. Chanda came up with a nice piece of front-running to take the women's 800m while Krishan Kumar took the men's two-lapper.

Dhanalakshmi. • FILE PHOTO: B. VELANAKANNI RAJ

The results (Indians only):
Men: 800m: 1. Krishan Kumar (1:49.80s); **Triple jump:** 2. Eldhose Paul (16.55m), 3. U. Karthik (16.15); **Shot put:** 1. Karanveer Singh (19.47m).
Women: 200m: 1. S. Dhanalakshmi (22.89s), 3. Dutee Chand (23.60); **800m:** 1. K.M. Chanda (2:03.46s); **Long jump:** 1. Ancy Sojan (6.44m); **Javelin throw:** 1. Annu Rani (62.29m), 2. Shilpa Rani (56.16), 3. Sanjana Choudhary (55.12), 6. Sharmila Kumari (47.19); **Hammer throw:** 1. Sarita Singh (62.48s).

Mihir, Aneesh continue golden run

SPORTS BUREAU

Mihir Ambre and Aneesh Sunilkumar Gowda continued their good run in the Singapore National swimming championships in Singapore on Sunday. Mihir emerged the fastest swimmer of the championship, winning the 50m freestyle gold, while Aneesh took the 1,500m freestyle title.

The results (Indian medallists only): Men: 50m freestyle: 1. Mihir Ambre (23.26s); **1500m freestyle:** 1. Aneesh Sunilkumar Gowda (16:01.72s).
200m individual medley: 3. Siva Sridhar (2:06.69s); **4x100m medley relay:** 2. Dolphin Aquatics (3:51.73s).

Recurve women win silver

ARCHERY

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian women's recurve team lost to Chinese Taipei 5-1 (56-53, 56-56, 56-53) in the final to take the silver medal at the archery World Cup Stage-3 in Paris on Sunday.

The 13th-ranked Indian trio of Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari and Simranjeet Kaur was beaten by the third-ranked Chinese Taipei team of Chien-Ying Lei, Chia-Mao Peng and Tzu Ying Kuo.

Chinese Taipei and India, with a different combination, bagged a bronze apiece in the first and second legs.

India returns with three medals, including two in compound, from the third leg.

Anirudh-Vijay pair triumphs

SPORTS BUREAU

The top-seeded pair of Anirudh Chandrasekar and Vijay Sundar Prashanth beat second seeded Germans Constantin Frantzen and Tim Sandkaulen 7-6(5), 6-4 in the final of the $25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Arlon, Belgium.

Other results: $25,000 ITF men, Arlon, Belgium: Doubles: Semifinals: Anirudh & Vijay bt Kai Wehnelt & Patrick Zahraj (Ger) 6-3, 6-2.
$25,000 ITF women, Prokuplje, Serbia: Doubles (final): Zhibek Kulambayeva (Kaz) & Prarthana Thombare w.o. Leyre Romero Gormaz (Esp) & Tara Wurth (Cro).

Karman claims crown

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
GURUGRAM

Karman Kaur Thandi put up a majestic game in her 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 victory over world No. 3 junior Sofia Costoulas of Belgium in the final of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis at the Tennis Project in Baliawas on Sunday.

More than her ability to play the big game, serving solid and hammering winners, the 24-year-old Karman won everyone's heart with her fighting spirit, while capturing her second title at this level.

After a good start, she recovered from being down 2-4 in the first set, to seal it at 6-4. In the second, the 17-year-old Belgian showed what she was capable of, with her athleticism and intelligent game.

In the three-hour battle, the key was the dash to the finish and Karman got it perfect. After taking a shower that gave her a cool mind, as the ITF heat rule allowed a 10-minute break before the decider, Karman had the resolve to take charge.

The wiry Karman broke Sofia's serve in the fourth game for a 3-1 lead and tightened her grip after that, closing out the match without any further drama.

"I am very happy. It is a new beginning for me. I had no expectations coming into this tournament. I just wanted to get on court and play my game," said Karman.

Winning smile: Karman Kaur Thandi with her trophy. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Mojito wins Colts Championship Stakes

BENGALURU: M.K. Jadhav-trained Mojito (N.S. Parmar up) won the Colts Championship Stakes, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 26). The winner is owned by M/s. SKJ Thoroughbreds Pvt. Ltd. rep by Mr. Prashant Nagar.

Parmar, who rode confidently, kept the gelding second or third last till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from outside in the home stretch. Mojito responded well to the reminders and started galloping with giant strides to overtake the leader Supernatural near the 200m and win comfortably.

1. HASSAN PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 4-y-o & over: **HABANERO** (Kritish B) 1, Classic Charm (G. Vivek) 2, Activated (P. Surya) 3 and Max Mueller (Ashhad A) 4. Not run: Messala. 1-1/2, 2-1/4 and Nose. 1m, 14.89s. ₹43 (w), 12, 10 and 17 (p), SHP: 43, THP: 34, FP: 100, Q: 23, Trinella: 341 and 285, Exacta: 1,063 and 404. Favourite: Classic Charm. Owner: Mrs. Prabha Dominic. Trainer: S. Dominic.

2. ASTRONOMIC PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45: **ANNE BOLEYN** (Akshay K) 1, Ultimate Striker (G. Vivek) 2, Mount View (Sandesh) 3 and Osiris (Arvind K) 4. Lnk, 3-1/2 and Shd. 1m, 07.37s. ₹34 (w), 15, 27 and 13 (p), SHP: 109, THP: 75, FP: 705, Q: 394, Trinella: 947 and 211, Exacta: 15,087. Favourite: Mount View. Owners: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Mrs. Prabha Dominic. Trainer: S. Dominic.

Rewarding excellence: Turf Authorities of India and BTC chairman K. Uday Eswaran, left, giving away the Colts Championship Stakes trophy to Mojito's trainer M.K. Jadhav as jockey N.S. Parmar looks on. • K. MURALI KUMAR

3. KARNATAKA SUB-AREA TROPHY (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **MIRRA** (Akshay K) 1, Prague (Trevor) 2, Roudy (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Sadler's Legacy (Yash) 4. 4, 3-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 37.54s. ₹108 (w), 26, 16 and 17 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 47, FP: 646, Q: 244, Trinella: 2,266 and 971, Exacta: 6,589 and 2,824. Favourite: Prague. Owner: Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

4. COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600M), 3-Y-O COLTS & GELDINGS (TERMS): MOJITO (SPEAKING OF WHICH-MARGARITA RITA) N.S. **PARMAR 1,** ONCE YOU GO BLACK (Win Legend-Aksinya) Suraj 2, ARTHUR (Kingda Ka-Godspeed) A. Imran 3 and LEONARDO (Speaking Of Which-La Dona) Akshay K 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and Lnk. 1m, 37.35s. ₹412 (w), 53, 13 and 36 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 73, FP: 1,819, Q: 382, Trinella: 19,146 and 12,308, Exacta: 1,19,737 (carried over). Favourite: Once You Go Black. Owner: M/s. SKJ Thoroughbreds Pvt. Ltd. rep by. Mr. Prashant Nagar. Trainer: M.K. Jadhav.

5. JUNE PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **ASCOVAL** (Trevor) 1, Aztec Queen (Arvind K) 2, Colonel Harty (Angad) 3 and Anakin (Abhay S) 4. 3-3/4, Lnk and 1-1/4. 1m, 12.74s. ₹13 (w), 13, 17 and 13 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 45, FP: 64, Q: 54, Trinella: 147 and 44, Exacta: 1,882 and 1,179. Favourite: Ascoval. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal, Mr. Gautam Aggarwal & Mrs. Geeta Aggarwal. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

6. PARSIANA PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **SOUTHERN DYNASTY** (C.S. Jodha) 1, Only You (Sandesh) 2, Shubankar (Akshay K) 3 and Rhapsody In Green (T.S. Jodha) 4. 2, 1 and 2-3/4. 1m, 53.12s. ₹31 (w), 17 and 14 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 30, FP: 74, Q: 34, Trinella: 239 and 124, Exacta: 503 and 130. Favourite: Only You. Owner: Mr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

7. MAURITIUS PEARL PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45: **FORSETI** (Trevor) 1, Del Mar (Ashhad A) 2, Striking Memory (S. Saqlain) 3 and Sea Blush (P. Surya) 4. 5, 2-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 12.46s. ₹17 (w), 11, 11 and 36 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 66, FP: 38, Q: 23, Trinella: 276 and 229, Exacta: 5,732 and 3,024. Favourite: Forseti. Owner: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

Jackpot: ₹25,398 (four tkts.).

Runner-up: 6,220 (seven tkts.).

Treble (i): 6,413 (two tkts.); (ii): 93 (182 tkts.).